

Cooking Corn

Life in a Timorese village

Written by Robin dos Santos

Illustrated by Adelino Soares Gama



WithOnePlanet

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This is a story about a little boy in Timor-Leste called Natalino.

Every morning, Natalino's mum and dad wake up at 5 am. Natalino's dad gets the **fire started**.

Natalino's mum starts sorting through the corn to pick out all the little stones and bad bits of corn.



Once the corn is cleaned, Natalino's mum puts it into a pot of **boiling water** to cook.

Natalino's dad chops up some more wood to keep the fire burning strong and hot.



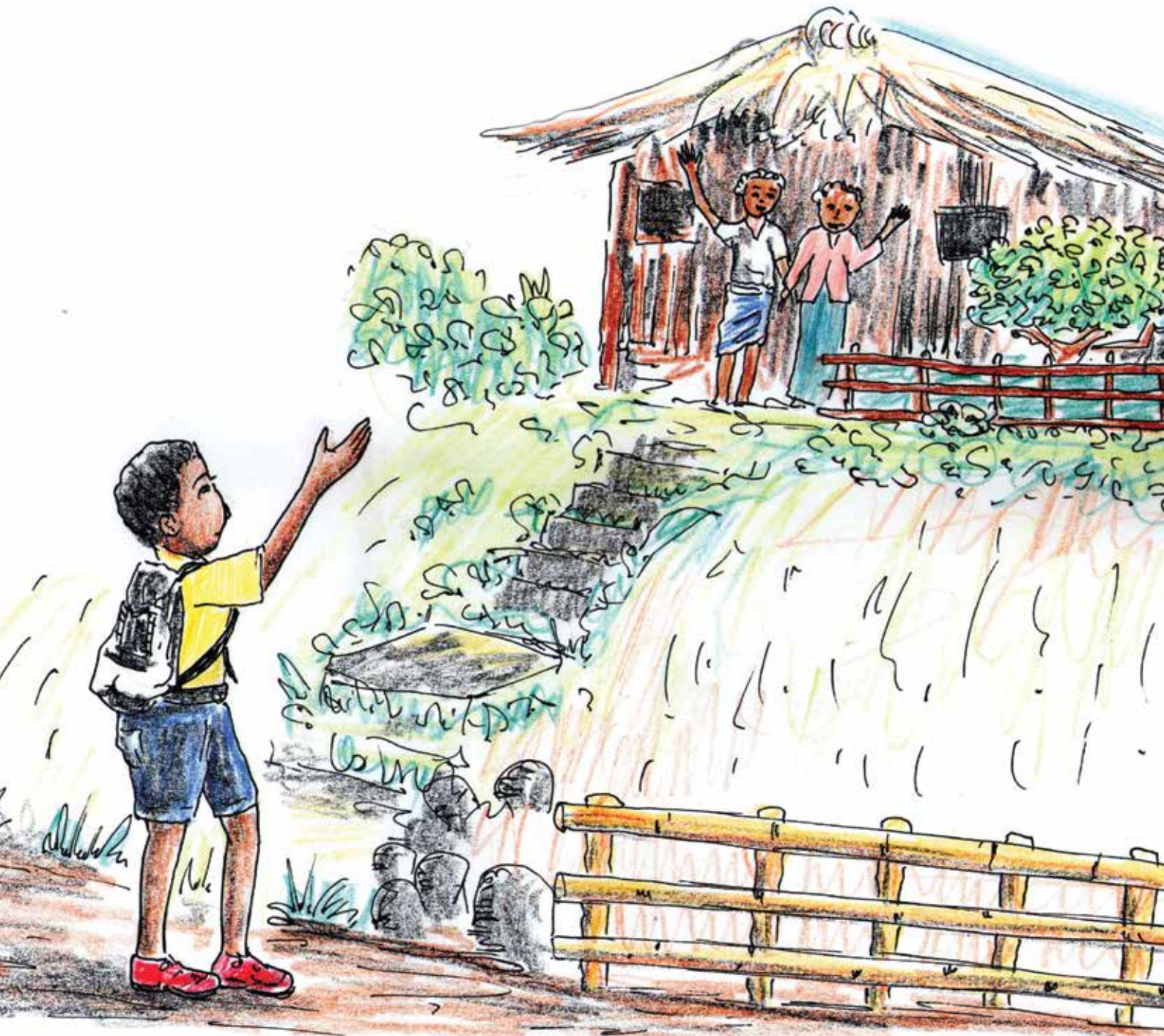
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They get up so early and do the cooking so that Natalino can have a good breakfast before he goes to school.

Natalino always has a big **bowl of corn** and a cup of water before he goes to school.



Natalino leaves for school at 6.30 am, because he has to **walk 5 km** to get to school. There are no cars or buses to take kids to school in Natalino's village.



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While Natalino is in school, his mum and dad do their work. His mum washes the clothes, cleans the house, and **carries the water** up from the river. His dad works in the fields to grow the corn and the other food that they eat.

Then Natalino's mum and dad start cooking again for the evening meal.



Natalino's mum is **cooking rice** and vegetables for their meal that night. They have rice and vegetables every night for dinner.

Sometimes, if they have a visitor, Natalino's dad will kill one of their chickens so that they can serve meat for their visitor.



When Natalino gets home, he tells his mum and dad about everything he learned in school that day.

Natalino's mum and dad never learned to read, so Natalino always helps them by **sharing everything** he learned at school with them.



That night they all sit down and have dinner together. They are all very happy because they have **enough food to eat** three meals a day.

Natalino always eats two plates of rice and veggies at night time because it is so yummy!



English

corn

rice

water

fire

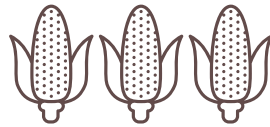
school

mum

dad

Tetun

batar



etu



bee



ahi



eskola



inan



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Tetun

batar

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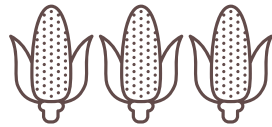
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English

corn



rice



water



fire



school



mum



dad



