



Big Little Book Awardee . Author (Kannada) . 2018

## NAGESH HEGDE

Describing Nagesh Hegde as a children's author would be telling half the story. He is also a journalist, environmentalist, publisher and professor. Nagesh Hegde is deeply committed to issues of science and environment. He is equally passionate about the Kannada language and these two combined reflect in the richness of his writings. Nagesh Hegde's deep passion for the environment has been the focus of his writing for children and young adults over the past few decades, covering a wide range of genres ranging from a short novel, short stories and street plays to essays and nonfiction. He has also produced magazines, wall-papers, posters, books, songs and pamphlets on ecology and environment for children. Due to their popularity, several of them have been prescribed as supporting texts for primary and high schools. His plays and stories have been staged in many schools while his scripts have been used in production of two feature films in Kannada.

His inimitable style - simple, direct and humorous - is easily accessible to children and make his books particularly appealing, along with the choice of themes that make them significant in our current times. *Kereyali Chinna, Kereye Chinna* is a heartwarming yet funny story of a polluted lake saved by its denizens. In his *Hallimukka Yellell Hokka*, a collection of vignettes of encounters with people from various walks of life and incidents involving his household, he weaves in wry humour to bring a different dimension to our daily outlook towards the environment. He pays great attention to detail in selection of images to complement the writing in *Apoorva Paschimaghatta*, a wide-ranging introduction to the Western Ghats, an excellent example of descriptive

nonfiction that children can read easily in Kannada, since work of this nature and production is rare in regional language publishing. This draws our attention to his clear understanding that illustrations and images play a significant role in making books appealing to children. In addition to these noteworthy titles, mention can also be made of *Gulige Gumma* and *Nemmadi Mane*. What stands out in his writing is the manner in which he firmly articulates truths about human greed and its impact on the environment without sounding didactic, gently encouraging the reader to think. His stories appeals to all age groups and are relevant to the rapidly changing world we live in today.



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