

KRISHNAN'S CAST: CURTAIN CALL

We meet some of M Krishnan's more interesting neighbours in his piece titled 'Voices of Intolerance'.

We see some bits of this cast again in the Snippet titled 'Krishnan's Cast': (b) Cassia leaves; (c) Yellow-billed babbler, which Krishnan refers to as a white-headed babbler; (d) Palm squirrel tail; (g) Mango flower; (h) Rose-ringed parakeet; and (l) The beak and head of a house crow.

Some questions to think about:

- Q1. Which of Krishnan's neighbours are also your neighbours? How many were you able to recognise?
- Q2. Which of Krishnan's neighbours did you find hard to place? Why?
- Q3. You may have noticed that 'Krishnan's Cast' has a red herring to match each of his neighbours. These are (or belong to) other plants and birds that may or may not be part of your neighbourhood but are related to Krishnan's neighbours in some way. Do you recognise any of them? Have you seen any of them in your neighbourhood?
- Q4. Krishnan also mentions a large owl, a hawk, and a coconut tree in his story. He thinks about the first two. The third makes an appearance. If you were invited to add one feature of a coconut tree to the puzzle, what feature would you choose and why? And what would you choose as a matching red herring?
- Q5. Krishnan invites us to look more closely at the plants and animals in our neighbourhood—not just at their physical features but also at how they behave and their emotional states. Have you noticed a similar demonstration

in your neighbourhood? Who had strayed in? Which animals did you see protesting? What cues did they use (for example, what sounds did they make) to communicate the presence of the intruder? Who do you think they were communicating to and why? How different was this from the demonstration that Krishnan observed (for example, in the cast of characters and their roles in the demonstration)? Did you sense any emotions in this display?



Which feature of a coconut tree would you choose?

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Notes:

1. To read M Krishnan's piece titled 'Voices of Intolerance', turn to page 19 of this issue.
2. To revisit the Snippet titled 'Krishnan's Cast', turn to page 43 of this issue.
3. To read more about M Krishnan, check out his Biography titled 'Nature's Passionate and Meticulous Chronicler' by Varun Sharma on page 4 of this issue.
4. Source of the image used in the background of the article title: Jigsaw pieces. Credits: Wounds_and_Cracks, Pixabay. URL: <https://pixabay.com/photos/puzzle-piece-tile-jig-jigsaw-game-3306859/>. License: CC0.
5. Sources of the images used in the visual puzzle in the Snippet 'Krishnan's Cast':

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