

“BAAK”

a short animation movie

Submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements

Of the degree of

Master in Design

By

Kangkan Sharma

Supervisor:

Prof. Nina Sabnani



Industrial Design Center

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

baak

Animation Film

Project 3

by
Kangkan Sharma

Guide: Prof. Nina Sabnani

IDC IIT BOMBAY



A BAAK STORY
a 2D animation short

TITLE

BAAK

a short animation movie
Phase 2

PROJECT 3

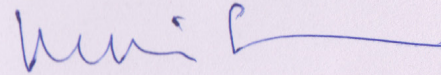
a film by
Kangkan Sharma
AN 136340002
Animation and Film Design
Guide: Prof Nina Sabnani

Industrial Design Centre
IIT Bombay

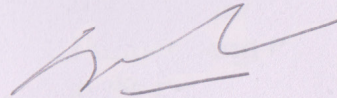
Approval Sheet

The animation Project entitled "Baak" on the Topic "Assam" by Kangkan Sharma, 136340002 is approved in for the partial fulfillment of the Master Design Degree in Animation and Film Design.

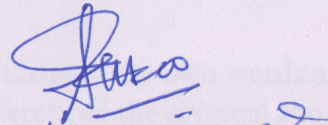
Project Guide:



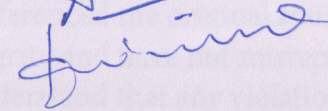
Chair Person:



Internal Examiner:



External Examiner:



Date: 06.06.15

Place: IDC, IIT Bombay

Declaration

I further declare that this written submission represents my ideas in my own words and where other's ideas or words have been included, I have adequately cited and referenced the original sources. I affirm that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or falsified any idea/data/fact/source to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any violation of the above will cause for disciplinary action by the Institute and can also evoke penal action from the sources which have not been cited properly.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kangkan Sharma', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Date: 06.06.15

Kangkan Sharma
AN 136340002
Animation and Film Design
IDC, IIT Bombay

Acknowledgement

I sincerely extend my deepest gratitude to my guide Prof. Nina Sabnani for her guidance and support throughout the project.

I thank Prof. Sumant Rao, Prof. Shilpa Ranade, Prof. Phani Tetali and Prof. C. P. Narayan for their invaluable support.

I thank my teachers, friends and family for their gracious involvement in seeing the project taking shape. I am also grateful to all my batchmates and seniors at IDC for their encouragement and support.

Kangkan Sharma
AN 136340002

Abstract

Based on my native place Assam, i started to work on a small animation short involving the assamese people's culture and beliefs. My project started as an animation short project on A Ghost, called Baak adapted from its rural beliefs and many tales of mischief. The movie tells how a small girl meets the Baak, a ghost endemic to the rural part of Assam and though it is considered by the villagers as a spiteful creature who steals fish from the fishermen, the Baak proves itself as a complete contradiction, when confronted by human's evil nature.

Content

Introduction	1
Research	2
The Baak: Definition	
References and Articles	
Concept and Initial Development	9
Mindmap	
Story 1-6	
Character Sketches	
Backgrounds	
Moodboards	
Final Story	31
Style and Layout	33
Storyboard	35
Conclusion	45
References	46

“Nothing reflects better the norms, mores and fears of a society than the ghosts and evil spirits it creates in its mind”

Introduction

All my childhood, I usually grew up listening to my grandmother’s story of the “Rong-Hinga and Khong-Hinga” where a milk stealing thief is caught by a well-notorious herd of buffaloes where they agree to let him go if he decides to look after the herd. He agrees and then he is gifted with a pair of horns called rong-hinga (means happy horn) and khong-hinga (means ‘angry horn’) to blow them whenever there is some danger. And so the story goes. Another time, it’s the heart aching sad story of “Tejimola” a poor innocent teenage girl, who is grinded by her step-mother with a dheki (an Assamese traditional wooden mortar and pestle operated by two people) and then is buried behind the house where she blooms into a plant. The story continues with her step mother uprooting every vine she grows into and then throwing the last vine into the water to be later found by her father in the form of a water lily.

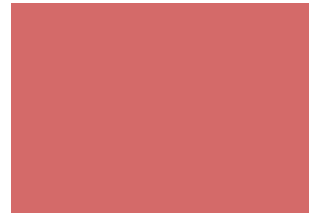
Unlike today’s generation, our childhood times were spent beside grandmother in the bonfire every evening listening to her numerous stories and folklores. The well-lit fire created shadow in the wall and my imaginations created a cinema like screen which I am sure I enjoyed more than the times nowadays when I am sitting in a multiplex with my 3D glasses on.

My mother often used to sing me a lullaby where her baby would happily pick up tasty plumps from the ground under a plump tree and of the fox who used to come for the children. The song speaks of a mother’s warning to the fox that if she comes for her son she will cut its ears and use it as a Saki (Diya/lamp) as assurance that no fox can harm her baby. Amusing it was and yes it did work, driving me to sleep under her warm embrace but also taught me to imagine. So every other time my mother would sing that lullaby, I would see Mr Fox in a trench-coat under the plum tree offering me some plump from his pockets. With all the mothers of the kids threatened to cut his ear if he approaches any of their kids, maybe all Mr Fox desperately needed was just a friend to play with. Ah we can’t predict how a child’s imagination works! Neither did my mom then.

I was a avid reader and listener of horror stories. I did grow a distaste for plum when I grew up, but one thing remained, Mr Fox still comes in my dream sometimes. Once my mother bought me a book full of ghost stories. Literally it was like a thesaurus of various kinds of ghosts that existed in Assamese belief. The author would define each ghost narrating few small told-tales and incidents from each. While most stories were very exciting, this one particular ghost did caught my extra attention. A ghost who would steal fishes from the fisherman. It’s known as a Baak. Of course it was the most famous Ghost in Assamese folklores and stories, so why not I try something new with this Mr Fox-Baak mix Assamese recipe in my degree animation project. Maybe adding an extra motive I can end up a good concept and story for my animation. Why not the recent communal violence happening in Assam. I just nodded.

Research and Initial Studies

The Baak
Definition
Belief/Articles/Media

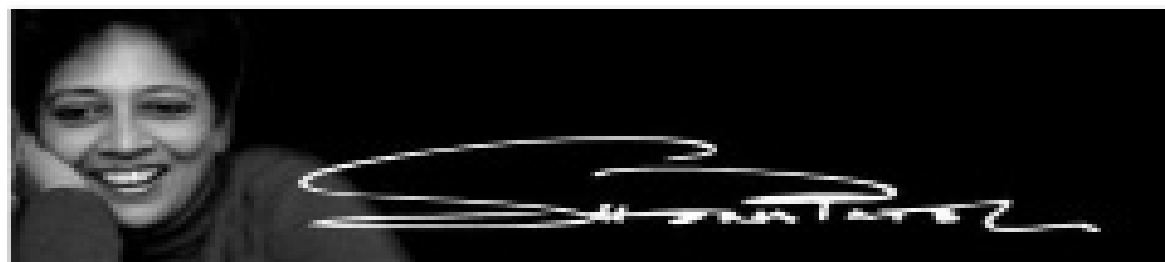


“Baak: A malevolent ugly creature that sometimes kills a person and takes on the corpse’s appearance. Endemic to the region with a taste for fish, it usually hants the water bodies.”

Definition

Definition of the Baak was found on few pages of the internet including few blogs and articles. An Assamese thesaurus released by Pranavjyoti Deka , the Jyoti Bilingual thesaurus (or Jyoti dvibhashika abhidhana) also list the Baak among the 60 various assamese ghost and spirits who are endemic to the assamese culture and beliefs. Apart from my initial impression of the Baak and numerous stories I have heard over the years, I also tried to contact few elderlies from my native place Assam and tried to know about their views on it. Beliefs were all centred about its peculiar obsessions of stealing fishes and its ability to take any human form. Recently an Assamese direct-to-video live film was released named “Baak’or Putek” meaning “Baak’s Son” . The story is about a wife who was believed by the villagers to be fooled by a Baak, disguised as her husband, to sleep with him and conceive a baby later. It mostly revolved around the superstitious beliefs of the Assamese society and its evil impact on the common people.

200



Abstract

It's time to start the search for your great old-fashioned dog: friendly, loyal, and able to love you.

1000

TABLE 1

© 2007 Blackwell Publishing Ltd
Journal of Internal Medicine 262: 105–113



- The Political Process

100

— *Journal of the American Medical Association*

Ghosts of the East and West

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE 5 OPPORTUNITIES, VISIT WWW.BUSINESSOPPORTUNITIES.COM

100

(pink) stained, yellow
green, at ends of
longer laminae,
below it bluish, white
streaked, becoming
darkly tinged
towards the point
of growth, laminae
yellowish, brownish,
blackish or blue-black.
The upper leafy shoot



— **Kamalong Factory Bangalore:** **Assistant Lorry Driver,** Lorry says, "I went there for a number of years and in fact a couple of glances. I thought that I had now saved my fee, for some bank in some village. The glances was that of a 12-year-old who wanted to be the daughter of a woman in the early 1960s in the commercial district of a city and that is the factory business."

Problem Two: Budgeting

1. **THE COMPANY'S NAME**

Journal of Management Education 35(1)

100

100

Ghost of the East and West
FEW EXCERPTS FROM THE PAGE

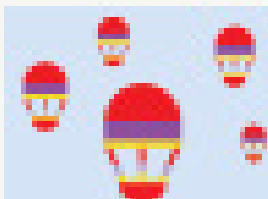
“Tea garden bungalows come equipped with a retinue of servants and often a resident spook (no extra charge!). Invariably the spook is a boga-sahib (white master): an old British tea planter who died on the job and who is buried somewhere in the tea garden. The bungalows themselves are creepy: drafty with echoing rooms, weak-wattage bulbs, creaky wooden floors and rattling rafters. Many are located within deep forests and surrounded by bamboo-baris (FYI the spooks love bamboo as much as pandas!). Add to that the blackest, deepest nights of Assam, lots of melancholy rain and vapors steaming off the jungle floor and voila! you have a phantom’s paradise”

Baak A malevolent ugly creature that sometimes kills a person and takes on the corpse’s appearance. Often seen hanging around isolated ponds and lakes.



SHORT STORIES / THE INDIAN SPOOK DIRECTORY

BUY
CURRENT
AND BACK
ISSUES
ON FLIPKART



FOLLOW THE BALLOON

THE INDIAN SPOOK DIRECTORY

TEN ARCHETYPAL GHOSTS AND SPIRITS OF THE SUBCONTINENT.

Book

by *Georgina Das*



©

THE BAAK

Wet and cold like fish, Baak's are territorial spirits that haunt water bodies, according to Pranavjyoti Deka, author of the *Jyoti Bilingual Thesaurus* (2007), a compendium of Assamese terms and their descriptions on subjects ranging from punishment to agriculture to ghosts. Baaks are mostly believed to be endemic to certain rural parts of Assam with many stories depicting their mischiefs and benevolent characteristic. While some tales of them having twisted arms and legs, there are certain belief that they are ugly headless creatures with eyes in their stomach. There is also an other variation of Baak where it said to take the form of a horse and with the power to create whirlpools. Dwelling in ponds mostly isolated, eating fish is said to be their main obsession. There are many stories of how the Baak steals fishes from the fishermen and keeps it in its net. The only way to ward off this mischievous creature is to steal that net and hiding it under mustard seed.

Concept and Initial Development

Story 1

Story 2

Character design

^{story 1}Storyboard

Background Exploration

ASSAM

FOLK-TALES

GHOST STORIES

HARMLESS

HARMFUL



LOCATION

FLOOD

VILLAGES

RELIEF CAMP

BUNGALOWS

COMMUNAL RIOTS

BODO-MUSLIM

BORDER CLASH

LAND-CONFLICTS

TIME ZONE

PRE-CRISIS/ CRISIS/POST CRISIS





STORY 1

Somewhere in a village of Assam, in the greenest of the green region of this part of the world, there lived a Baak. A cute little monster, often misunderstood & even accused of stealing fish. But all the poor soul did was save fish by letting them back into the water from the fisherman's net. He didn't know to communicate with humans and humans assumed he was bad. All he needed was peaceful co-existence between human beings and nature.

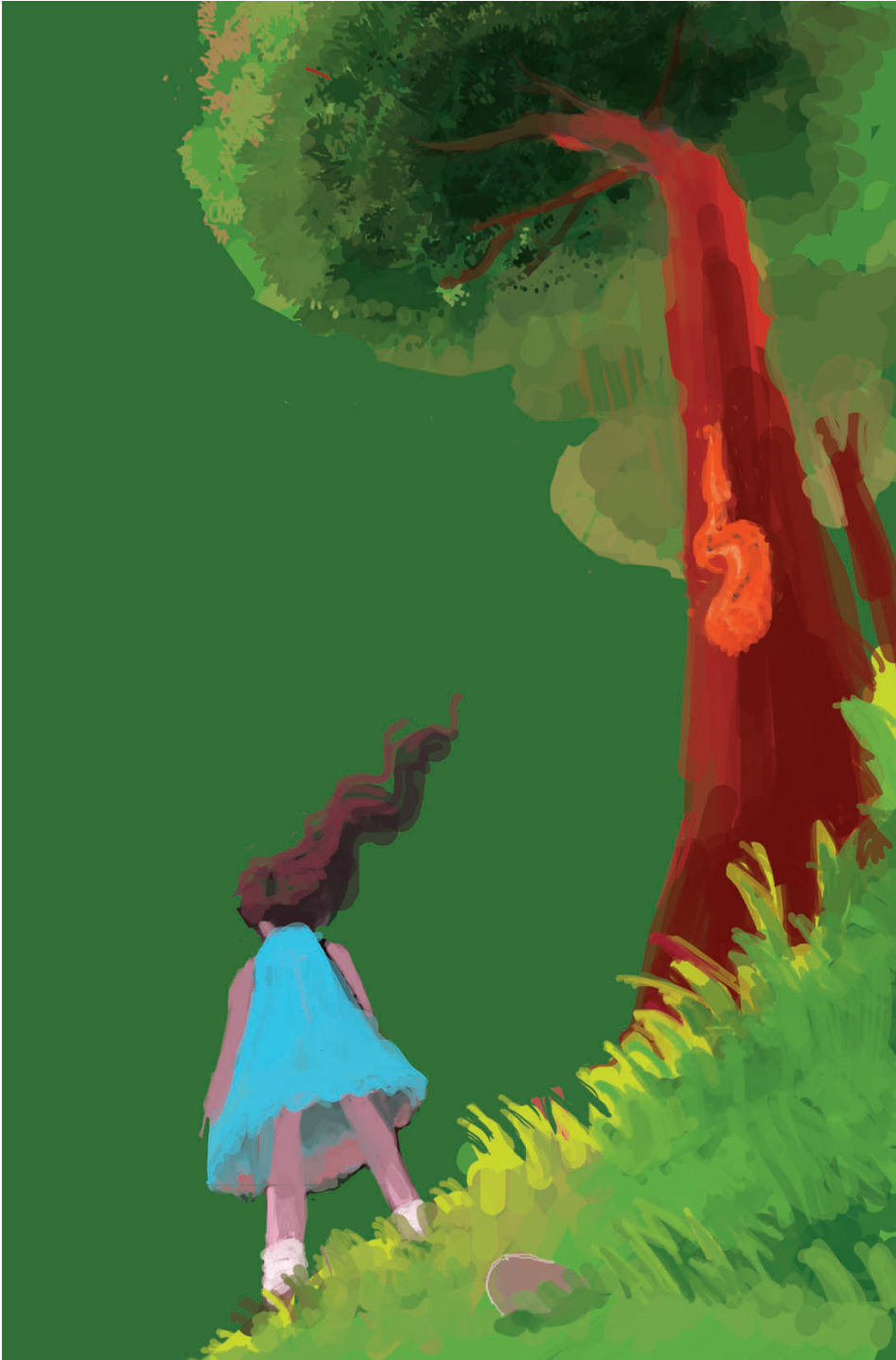
The village where the Baak lived was the model secular & small time charm. The Gods often looked at them and were very bored. One day to ward off the boredom, the gods decided to play a prank on a poor pig. Out of thin air they sent a colourful butterfly with a huge stinger to freak the pig out and it worked! The butterfly landed on the pig's snout and plunged its stinger and off ran the pig squealing... well like a pig!!

The Baak after enough fish for the day slipped off the fisherman's boat and was ambling around when he saw the pig now running around in fright. To the Baak's shock the pig jumped off a freaking high cliff... yes the pig did!

Now that the poor pig had plunged itself to death despite most probably got rid of his fear of colourful butterflies for the rest of his life, the Baak knew this is not going to be good. He knew the butterfly effect would be each community blaming each other. This one incident would be the reason of world war 3 and the end of all humanity and not to mention the Baak's own peaceful existence.

So the Baak decided to save the world by transforming into the pig even before the villagers realised that one pig has gone missing. Thanks to the poor Baak the day was saved.

THE END



STORY 2

Scene 1

It's another gloomy silent night apart from the sound of a distant cricket and a boat sliding across the water. From over the top of the trees across the foliage, we can see a fisherman's boat floating in the water lit by the moon. At one end of the boat, a lone fisherman sits, his eyes fixed on the string of his fishing line as he awaits patiently for some fish to get caught in the line. But unknown to him a dark gooey figure is lying (what it seems) in the other end of the boat putting back the caught fishes into the water. Our strange dark character stirred by something or whatever not known ,puts a fish into his mouth and drops into the water from the boat, as swift and silent the way he may have got into the boat in the first place. The fisherman looks back. Sways his torch across the boat. Alas all now remained are two three fishes from his last catch. A look of frustration across our poor man's face. A fish just left carelessly in the side of the boat, falls into the water where it takes a dip into the water. INTRO CREDIT ROLLS WITH THE TITLE AT THE END.

Scene 2:

It's the village pond's ghost called the Baak that is after all this nuisance. It appears from below the water moving towards the shore. Once in the shore it takes out the fish from its mouth. It stirs the water holding the fish and then slowly opens his hold. The fish gets out in the water, remains in the surface for a second or two and then swims away with some flocks of fishes. The pond shows a lot of activity, unlike the shore which depicts the lonely feel with our Baak giving a sign of loneliness.

Scene 3:

The Baak picks something from the ground. It's a beautifully crafted bamboo toy resembling a human figure .lying down in the ground beside the pond it hugs the only twig friend and closes its eyes. Suddenly the Baak opens his eyes and finds a pair of eyes looking at it from the bushes across the tree line.

Meena has stranded into the wood. It was that silky cute squirrel she was after and couldn't resist to follow it as it jumped across the tree branches. But the trail was towards the village pond which Meena's mother had warned her of venturing in the noon. There are stories that during the noon the pond is haunted by a benevolent ugly ghost call the Baak. She have heard stories of the Baak stealing fishes from the fisherman. It's also said that in couple of occasions it kills a person and wears its skin and wanders off into the village to steal more fishes from the kitchen. Maybe the Baak just needs friends but skinning a live human is absurd.. That is what Meena had thought. She had shrugged off her fear and hopped toward the trail of the squirrel without another thought. And now she is kind of lost. Even the squirrel is nowhere to be seen and the eerie silence in that part of the wood is giving Meena a weird feeling. She should have listened to mother. As she turns her back to return through the way she came, from the side of her eyes she thought she saw something move in the shore of the pond across the bush. Is it the Baak that mother and the whole villagers had been warning of? A sense of hair tingling feel mixed with a rush off adventure

drove her and within a second she is there peeping through the bush into that strange creature that the people call as Baak.

The Baak equally shocked at the pair of eyes looking at it in a sudden jumps into the water. Not knowing what to do next it peeps out of the water to see a little girl behind the bush. With the sudden appearance of the little stranger the Baak thinks of something and moves towards the girl.

Where did it go...thought Meena. Suddenly she heard the crackling of the leaves in the ground behind her. She turned slowly and froze in her ground. Coz in front of her was the most horrifying creature she have ever seen. It's the blob standing in front of him. Its eyes staring at poor Meena. She starts to cry. Poor heart.

But the Baak reaches out and puts forward something that it is holding in its hand. Not knowing what to do she grabs the thing and slowly turning back she starts moving towards the village.

Its night, back in her hut, Meena looks at the thing as she lies in her bed. It's a stick figure carefully handcrafted out of a bamboo twig. She smiles but wonders with her little mind what might be the Baak be doing now. Is he going to sleep alone now that he had given her his only bamboo friend? Meena thinks about her own time when mother was once away from home for a whole one night. She had gone to the town's hospital and stayed there beside her dying father and even so when aunt konai had stayed instead for the night, she had cried herself to sleep. If only she could have returned the Baak his friend. Or maybe something else as a gratitude.

Its raining heavily and the baak stares at the trees swaying wildly. It does miss something now. It stares at its own hand as the drops of water falls in it. Suddenly he hears a sudden motion behind him only to find little meena holding up a small doll towards the now surprised Baak.

The end.

STORY 3

INTRODUCTION

It starts in a dark room with a thunderstorm happening outside. A little girl asks her grandmother to tell her a story (voice in a black scene). The grandmother starts telling her about a ghost called the Baak who used to be feared and loathed by the villagers for stealing fishes from fishermen's boat. Elsewhere with each thunder light we see a strange dark creature looking through some bushes. It's raining here too with people's feet passing between the bush and camera. There is a sense of some commotion going on with so much movement. While the eyes are just staring at the audience depicting something is happening.

It's the inside of a commercial passenger plane and a guy is reading a newspaper. The newspaper headline can be seen clearly talking about the recent communal violence happening in the state of Assam. The guy looks nervous, wipes his head with a handkerchief and asks for water. As the plane flies we can see underneath the green patches of land denoting the plane is flying above some village of Assam. We see the plane pass by overhead through an opening of the treelines. The camera pans down to reveal the surface of a pond. A strange hand bends over and stirs the surface. A little fish peeks to the surface wags its fin a while then swims away as another shoal of fish swims through. We can see the reflection of a strange face in the water.

Its night time and a boat slowly wades through the dark water of a pond. From over the top of the trees across the foliage, we can see its a fisherman's boat floating in the water lit by the moon where at one end of the boat, a lone fisherman sits, his eyes fixed on the string of his fishing line as he awaits patiently for some fish to get caught. But unknown to him a dark gooey figure is lying (what it seems) in the other end of the boat putting back the caught fishes into the water. Our strange dark character stirred by something or whatever not known ,puts a fish into his mouth and drops into the water from the boat, as swift and silent the way he may have got into the boat in the first place. The fisherman looks back. Sways his torch across the boat. Alas all now remained is two three fishes from his last catch. A look of frustration across our poor man's face. A fish just left carelessly in the side of the boat, falls into the water where it takes a dip into the water.

The body now emerges out of the water. The village Baak looks into the horizon. The thunder cracks and it suddenly starts to rain. It's a heavy thunderstorm at this time of the year. The trees sways like wild animals pouncing at its prey. Behind the thick foliage towards the village something

seems burning. The Baak senses something is wrong and moves toward the settlement. But all is heard is loud thunders. Mixed with the strong wind and rain it's a howling sound. The Baak keeps moving through the paddy fields towards a tree line across which lies a village. A burning village.

The scene is back where the Baak is looking through the bushes. People are running all over. Its chaos and agony. People are killing each other. Slowly the Baak moves toward a burning hut. He can hear a small girl crying for help. He removes the burning logs that was surrounding the hut. Inside the girl is hardly in a position to be alarmed at the strange figure trying to save her from the flames. The Baak somehow drags the girl away from the now collapsing hut. Figuring out she hardly have a safe place in the village the Baak helps the little girl move away from the burning village.

The storm has somewhat calmed down. Still a strong breeze is blowing in this calm wood away from the chaos of the village behind. The girl has started to find her legs and walk upright though with some help of the Baak. At one point the girl stops walking and looks at the stranger. Her eyes shows gratitude to her strange rescuer as well as pain maybe from losing some loved one in the night's fire. Who knows how many she might have lost in this violence that man has created within themselves. A final walk into the horizon shows the beginning of a new friendship.

Credit Rolls*

*Character build of a Bodo tribe character and
a Bengali speaking Muslim*



**Finally after going through the feedbacks and the guidance, the last story got a tons of changes. Told from the perspective of both Meena and the Baak, the new story has avoided dwelling into the Communal Violence topic. Instead it focuses more on the Friendship part and the humanitarian side of the Baak we otherwise call a evil ghost.*

STORY 4

Scene 1 (intro)

The camera zooms from space with a plane flying through the clouds. Little Meena is visiting her Grandma's home after a long time. She is sitting there in her seat beside the window reading a book. As she stares out the window, she is amazed to see the greenery as now the plane fly above a little village of Assam. From outside, we see the plane pass by overhead through an opening of the treelines. The camera pans down to reveal the surface of a pond. A strange hand bends over and stirs the surface. A little fish peeks to the surface wags its fin a while then swims away as another shoal of fish swims through. We can see the reflection of a strange face in the water. Gradually the camera moves towards the strange creature, the Baak. The camera then zooms out leaving the Baak alone, away from the woods into a village.

Scene 2 (night scene) :

It's another gloomy silent night apart from the sound of a distant cricket and a boat sliding across the water. From over the top of the trees across the foliage, we can see a fisherman's boat floating in the water lit by the moon. At one end of the boat, a lone fisherman sits, his eyes fixed on the string of his fishing line as he awaits patiently for some fish to get caught in the line. But unknown to him a dark gooey figure is lying (what it seems) in the other end of the boat putting back the caught fishes into the water. Our strange dark character stirred by something or whatever not known ,puts a fish into his mouth and drops into the water from the boat, as swift and silent the way he may have got into the boat in the first place. The fisherman looks back. Sways his torch across the boat. Alas all now remained are

two three fishes from his last catch. A look of frustration across our poor man's face. A fish just left carelessly in the side of the boat, falls into the water where it takes a dip into the water.

The village Baak is after all the nuisance. It appears from below the water moving towards the shore. Once in the shore it takes out the fish from its mouth. It stirs the water holding the fish and then slowly opens his hold. The fish gets out in the water, remains in the surface for a second or two and then swims away with some flocks of fishes. The pond shows a lot of activity, unlike the shore which depicts the lonely feel with our Baak giving a sign of loneliness.

Scene 3 (Evening Scene) :

The Baak picks something from the ground. It's a beautifully crafted bamboo toy resembling a human figure .lying down in the ground beside the pond it hugs the only twig friend and closes its eyes. Suddenly the Baak opens his eyes and finds a pair of eyes looking at it from the bushes across the tree line.

Meena has stranded into the wood. It was that silky cute squirrel she was after and couldn't resist to follow it as it jumped across the tree branches. But the trail was towards the village pond which Meena's Grandmother had warned her of venturing in the noon. There are stories that during the noon the pond is haunted by a benevolent ugly ghost call the Baak. She have heard stories of the Baak stealing fishes from her Grandma once. It's also said that in couple of occasions it kills a person and wears its skin and wanders off into the village to steal more fishes from the kitchen. Maybe the Baak just needs friends but skinning a live human is absurd.. That is what Meena had thought. She had shrugged off her fear and hopped toward the trail of the squirrel without another thought. And now she is kind of lost. Even the squirrel is nowhere to be seen and the eerie silence in that part of the wood is giving Meena a weird feeling. She should have listened to Grandma. As she turns her back to return through the way she came, from

the side of her eyes she thought she saw something move in the shore of the pond across the bush. Is it the Baak that mother and the whole villagers had been warning of? A sense of hair tingling feel mixed with a rush off adventure drove her and within a second she is there peeping through the bush into that strange creature that the people call as Baak.

The Baak equally shocked at the pair of eyes looking at it in a sudden jumps into the water. Not knowing what to do next it peeps out of the water to see a little girl behind the bush. With the sudden appearance of the little stranger the Baak thinks of something and moves towards the girl.

Where did it go...thought Meena. Suddenly she heard the crackling of the leaves in the ground behind her. She turned slowly and froze in her ground. Coz in front of her was the most horrifying creature she have ever seen. It's the blob standing in front of him. Its eyes staring at poor Meena. She starts to cry. Poor heart.

But the Baak reaches out and puts forward something that it is holding in its hand. Not knowing what to do she grabs the thing and slowly turning back she starts moving towards the village.

Its night, back in her hut, Meena looks at the thing as she lies in her bed. It's a stick figure carefully handcrafted out of a bamboo twig. She smiles but wonders with her little mind what might be the Baak be doing now. Is he going to sleep alone now that he had given her his only bamboo friend? Meena thinks about her own time when her Mom was once away from home for a whole one night. How she cried and shouted at her dad and didn't slept until Mom returned. If only she could have returned the Baak his friend. Or maybe something else as a gratitude.

The Baak stares at the night sky as it feels a cold breeze pass by. It does miss something now. It stares at its empty hand for a while. Suddenly he hears a sudden motion behind him only to find little Meena holding up a small teddy towards the now surprised Baak.

It was the last night of Meena's vacation stay. Dad has come to take them

back to Mumbai. Meena thought about the strange creature that she met that night. She thought of visiting it again but had hesitated. Maybe she will visit him again, next time she comes to grandma's place in her next vacation. And moreover Grandma would be glad to have her coming again.. Just then it started to rain heavily. Very heavily and with thunder strikes.

The Baak looks out at the wild clouds. A storm is coming. Suddenly it starts raining followed by huge thunder strikes. He can see the trees swaying wildly like wild animals pouncing at its prey. A thunder strike lands just a few metres away from the pond. Behind the thick foliage towards the village something seems burning. The Baak senses something is wrong and moves toward the settlement. But all is heard is loud thunders. Mixed with the strong wind and rain it's a howling sound. The Baak keeps moving through the paddy fields towards a tree line across which lies a village. A burning village.

A wild thunder strike had somehow landed in one of the hut and now the whole village is in fire. The Baak thought he could hear a girl crying. Slowly the Baak moves toward that burning hut from where the sound was coming. He can hear a small girl crying for help. He removes the burning logs that was surrounding the hut. Inside its Meena lying on her knees crying. Beside her, Grandma is lying unconscious maybe because of the smoke she had inhaled. Meena glad to see her old friend somehow gets on her feet. The Baak drags out grandma and Meena out of the hut away from the fire. Once away in the safety, as Meena's parents and the rest of the villagers comes to aid, Meena looks towards the Baak only to find him gone. As the rest of the people tends to grandma, Meena runs towards the wood to find the Baak leaving. She runs and holds the Baak's hand with gratitude. The Baak stares at her. Meena smiles back. Marking the beginning of a new friendship.

THE END

STORY 5

The opening scene starts with a small girl watching through a window seat as the plane she is sitting flies across the clouds for an unknown destination. A voice narrates (the girl's voice) that she is on her way to her grandmother's place on her vacation i.e. to Assam. She tells how her mom has been telling her stories about the place's beauty as well her friends concern that Assam is full of jungles and dangerous wild animals. She particularly mentions about the stories of the Baak, a ghost who steals fishes from the fisherman not forgetting to give her own opinion that unlike those beliefs, she believes that the Baak is just lonely and needs a friend. She also believes that the Baak only saves the fishes from the fisherman's net while somewhere down below in such a jungle that the narrator been describing a bright figure actually releases few fishes that a fisherman had caught and kept in his boat. This gives the viewer a clue that the bright being is non-other than the Baak.

As the plane flies overhead, it's shown that few terrorist (don't forget that Assam has been also facing the problem of insurgency due to the ULFA militants since a decade) had been planning an attack on the passenger plane. A few shots are fired when the militant commander orders something in their native language, and one of the engine gets hit and fire starts. Down flows now the plane with all the passengers left for their impending doom including our narrator, the girl. As the now crashing plane flies low over the jungle before hitting the ground, the Baak is shown admiring few fishes underwater unaware of the crash landing of the plane nearby.

The camera pans above the jungle's canopy with the moon shining bright. [The title "the Baak"] displays.

{Alternative: the pond reflects the scene of the jungle night sky with the title written on the surface of the water as few fishes swim pass by}

Music starts with the title.

The camera pans back to show the Baak now playing with a toy. It dips its long hands in the water and then starts managing the hair of the toy as if he was combing a child.

The girl has survived and is now shown running through the jungle as few pursuers (terrorist) run behind her. The girl suddenly trips over a stone and falls right in front of the Baak. Both are startled. As the pursuers nears, the Baak suddenly grabs the girl by the hand and hides her behind a tree. The militants unable to find the girl leaves the place. The Baak then shoves the girl aside and gets back to his toy letting the viewer know that the Baak is not accustomed to such human contacts. As the now both lonely creatures turns back to each other, the girls starts to walk away. She feels a small tap at her shoulder. Turning at her new friend, she sees it handing her the toy. As a token of the new friendship that had just begun. Suddenly it's the starting scene where the girl is still looking out through the window from her seat. This time the camera zooms out to reveal the plane flying over a green stretch of land. The narrator mentions that it's her part of the story of the Baak and ask the viewers what's theirs. As the plane passes by overhead, people are shown working in the paddy fields below. The camera also pans through a jungle opening where we can see few wild boars and a rhino gazing giving us an idea that the place is no other than the beautiful state of Assam.

Credit Rolls.

As the music fades and we reach the end of the credits, a toy similar to the one we saw is shown lying in a patch in the shore of a pond. Suddenly a bright hand appears and grabs it.

The End.

The opening scene starts with a small girl watching through a window seat as the plane she is sitting flies across the clouds for an unknown destination. A voice narrates (the girl's voice) that she is on her way to her grandmother's place on her vacation i.e. to Assam. She tells how her mom has been telling her stories about the place's beauty as well her friends concern that Assam is full of jungles and dangerous wild animals. She particularly mentions about the stories of the Baak, a ghost who steals fishes from the fisherman not forgetting to give her own opinion that unlike those beliefs, she believes that the Baak is just lonely and needs a friend. She also believes that the Baak only saves the fishes from the fisherman's net while somewhere down below in such a jungle that the narrator been describing a bright figure actually releases few fishes that a fisherman had caught and kept in his boat. This gives the viewer a clue that the bright being is non-other than the Baak.

The plane flies through the lush valley as people are seen working in the paddy fields while a kid is shown playing with a toy car as the plane flies overhead. Somewhere else with a thunder clap the title of the story" the Baak "is written as the camera pans into a bright silhouette behind the trees.

Our girl is greeted by her grandma when she reaches her place. There is a cat in the house which the girl later carries in her lap and sits beside her grandma as she is husking the rice outside in the verandah. The cat alert by some noise in the bushes jumps from the girls lap and hurries into the bushes. The girl runs after the cat not before she is warned by her grandma that it's not safe in the woods at this time and that there is the Baak who troubles the people around here. The girl nods that she would be safe and hurries off into the woods.

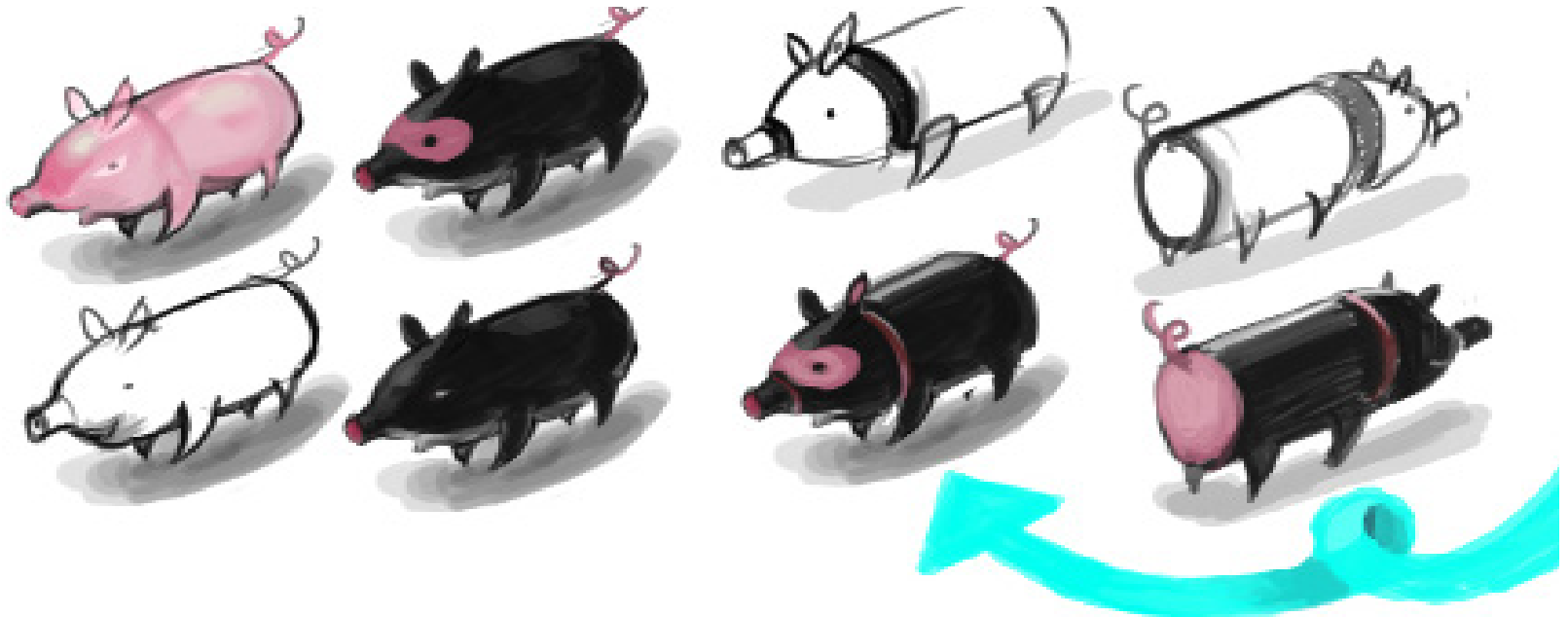
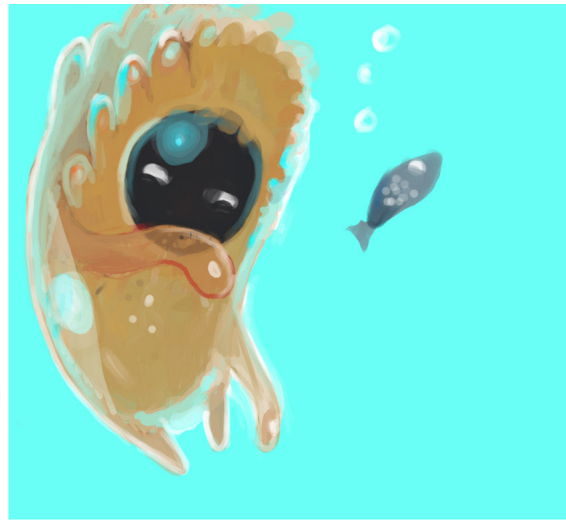
The cat is chasing a squirrel as it climbs from branches to branches. The girl gives away the chase after she finally realizes that she is lost. As she

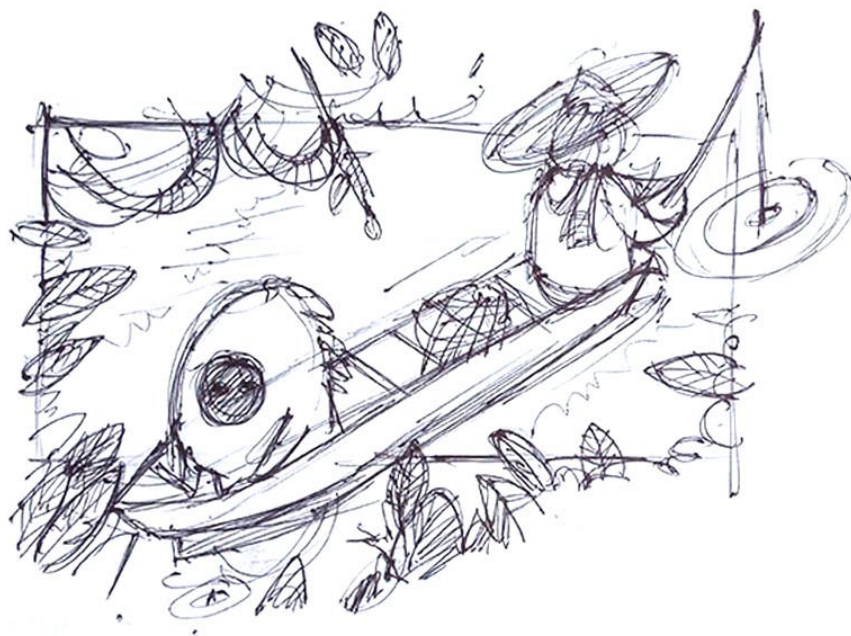
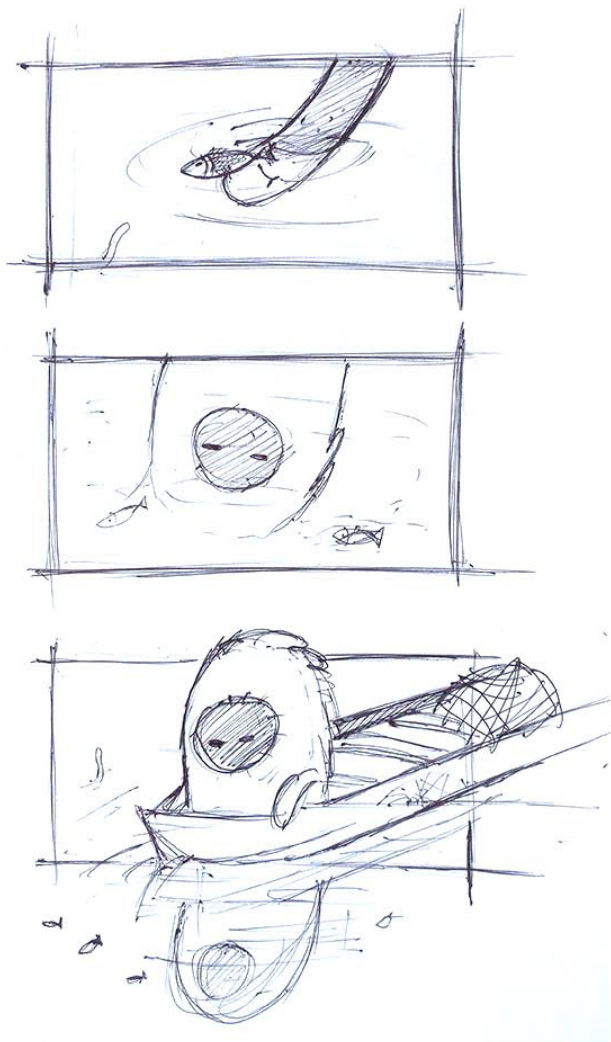
crosses a small stream she is alerted by some noise in the branches of the trees around her. Unknown to the girl, a white transparent figure is shown following the girl. The girl, now scared, turns around to see a huge white cat sitting behind her. Its eyes seems curious and stares at the girl without any motion. Our little girl, maybe surprised by this sudden dreamlike appearance of the white being touches it and finds it shifting into a smoke and hanging by the nearest tree. This time the Baak has transformed into a creature wearing a hat as both stares at each other. Suddenly there is some rush in the woods behind them. The Baak seems to make weird forms warning the girl that it's not safe with those people around. It seems right as the people doesn't seems like the villagers around here. They are militants with guns and big knives who most of the time harasses the nearby villagers. As the militants nears, the Baak suddenly grabs the girl by the hand and hides her behind a tree. The militants unable to find the girl leaves the place. The Baak then shoves the girl. As the now both lonely creatures turns back to each other, the girls starts to walk away. She feels a small tap at her shoulder. Turning at her new friend, she sees it handing her the toy. As a token of the new friendship that had just begun.

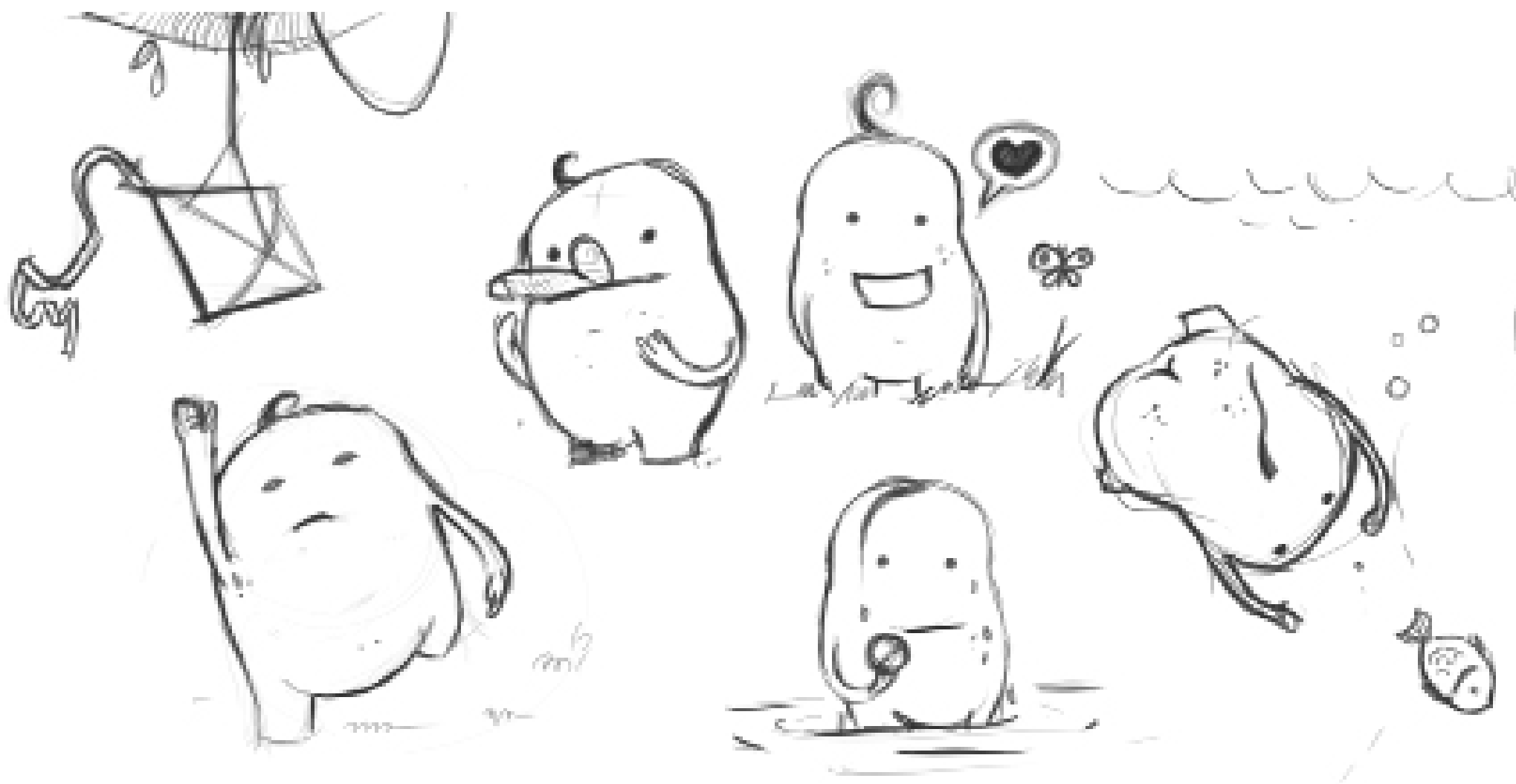
It's the end of her vacation and the girl is leaving Assam. Camera zooms out to reveal the plane flying over a green stretch of land. The narrator mentions that it's her part of the story of the Baak and ask the viewers what's theirs. As the plane passes by overhead, the camera also pans through a jungle opening where we can see few wild boars and a rhino grazing.

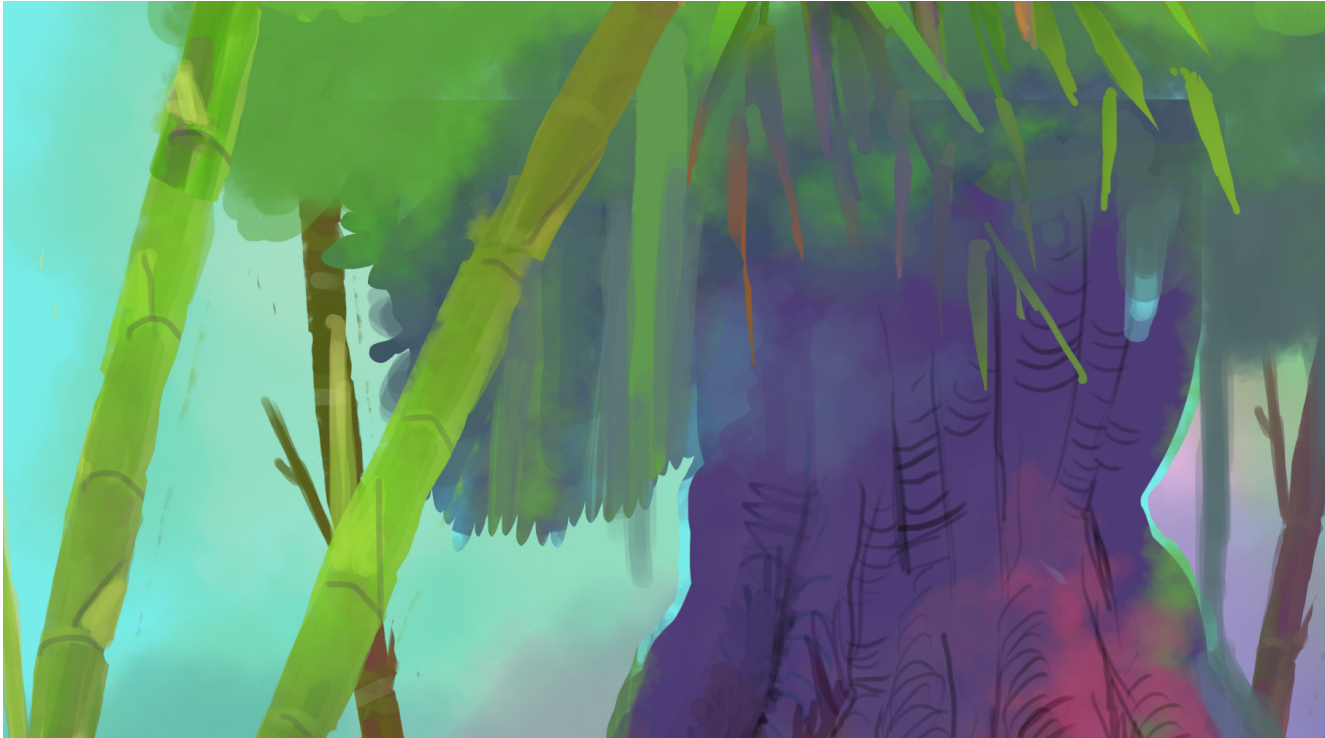
Credit Rolls.

As the music fades and we reach the end of the credits, a toy similar to the one we saw is shown lying in the girls lap as her plane flies away into the horizon.







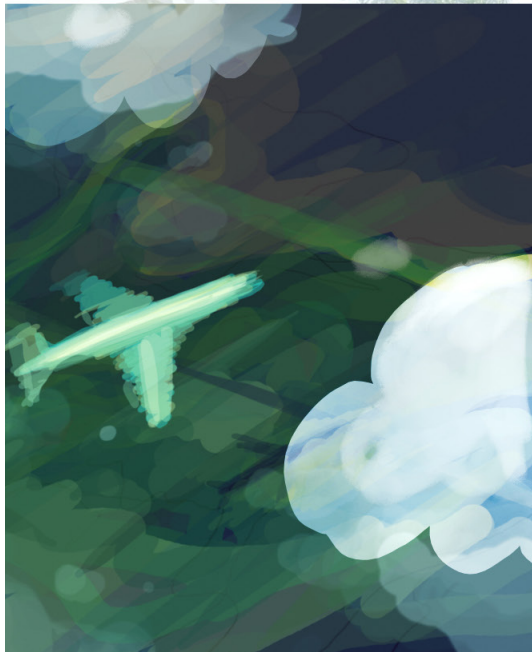


Initial background Sketches



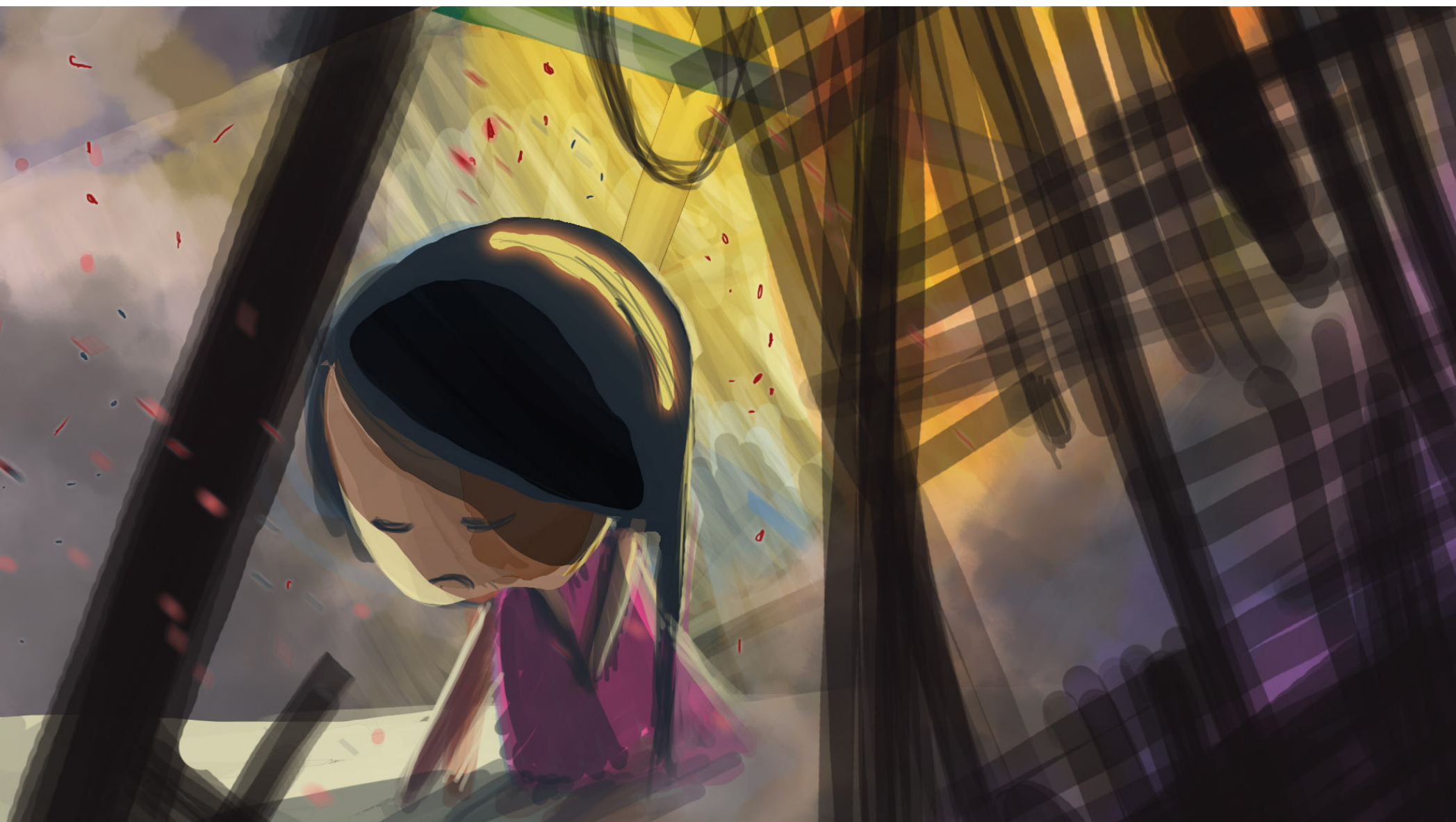












THE FINAL STORY

Style and layout
Storyboard
Conclusion

THE FINAL STORY

SCENE 1:

Its green everywhere. Seated in her seat beside the window she watch the vast beautiful scenery around her through the window as the train moves along the lush green valley of Assam. Inside various people are seated with her mom just beside her. It's her summer vacation and she is on her way to her grandma's place with her mother.

SCENE 2:

Elsewhere a boat is moving across the still water of a village pond. A fisherman is looking for his last catch of the evening. Suddenly a bright ghostly figure drops into the water from the shore and emerges beside the boat. It's the village Baak which people believe to trouble the fishermen often and steal their fishes. Unknown to the fisherman, the Baak drops a fish from the boat into the water and then slides onto the boat. The rest of the fishes jumps into the water with the help of the Baak.

SCENE 3:

Pori and her mom reaches the village. There is tension in the village as the villagers look at the smoke rising into the clouds at a distant in a village just across the jungle beside Grandma's village. There had been communal tension in those parts those days and some terrorist has been terrifying the innocent villages. Seems some terrorist has attacked and burnt that village. Nevertheless of the danger, Grandma welcomes Pori with an open hug as it's been a long time they have met. Pori's innocent heart hardly understands all this violence and eager to

SCENE 4:

Pori is cuddling the large cat in the backyard veranda as her Grandma is husking some rice from the recent harvest. The cat suddenly gets down from her lap and runs after a butterfly. As Pori runs after the cat, Grandma, fearing she might be in some trouble at this scary times, warns her not to go far telling her that the village Baak lives nearby who catches innocent children if the venture too deep into the jungle alone. Pori assures her Grandma she won't go too far and runs into the wood.

SCENE 5:

It's been a while Pori had been into the woods. She ventures deep into the woods as she explores the scenic beauty around her. The long bamboo trees looks like long grasses. A pair of eyes is seen following her from the foliage. It's revealed to be the Baak who is also surprised and curious seeing the little girl wandering alone in this part of the jungle. It shifts into a fox and jumps from one branch to the other as it follows little Pori walking down below.

SCENE 6:

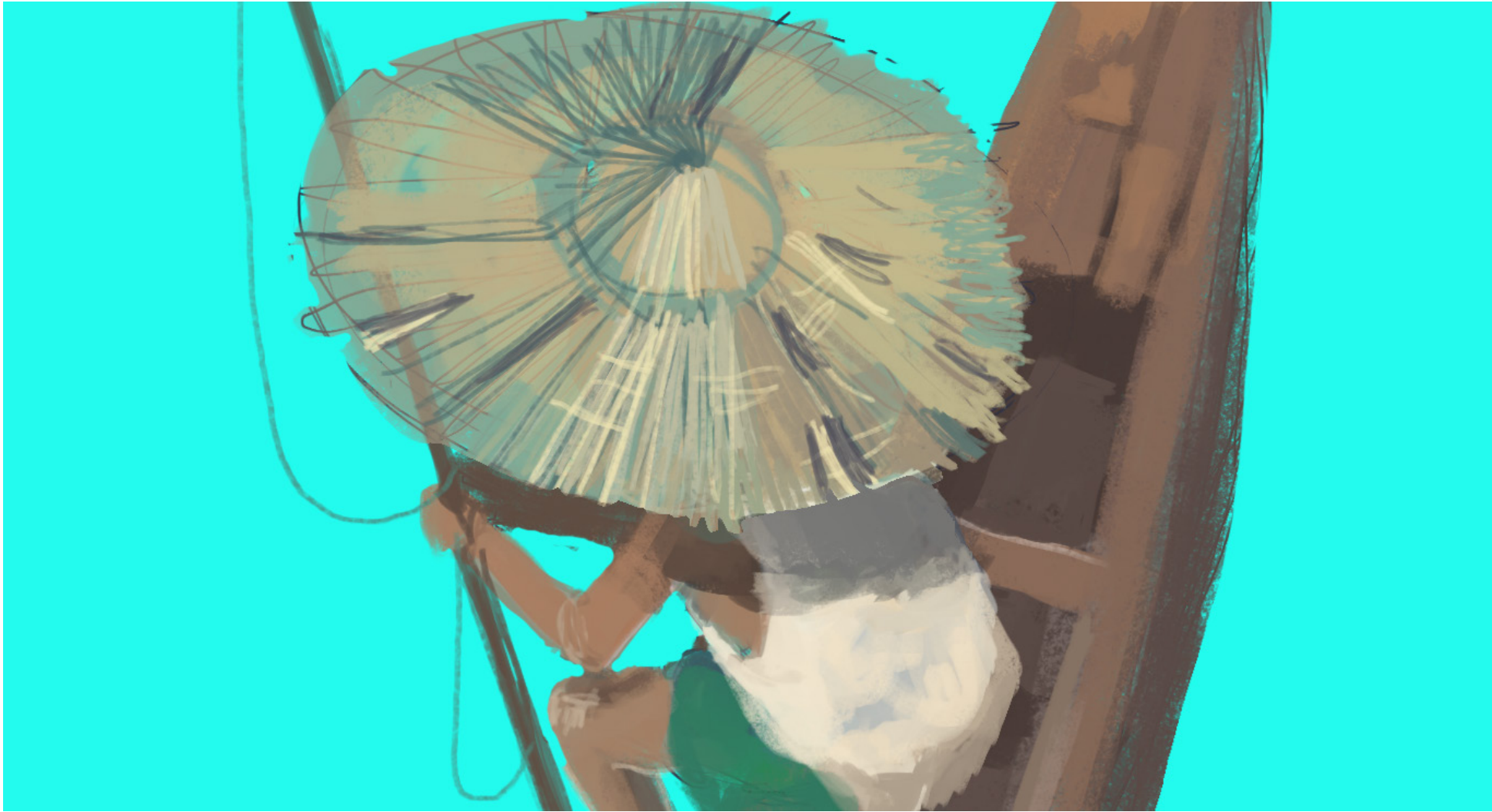
Pori jumps and walks cheerfully across the meadows as she comes across a beautiful butterfly. Playfully she starts chasing her. But unknown to her she is moving towards the burning village. The Baak gets alarmed and suddenly drops from the tree near Pori. Pori startled and surprised at the sudden appearance of the cute tiny blue fox, stops chasing the butterfly. The fox stares for a minute and up runs towards the jungle. Pori curious to know what the fox has to show her runs after it. They cross high grass, a stream and jumps around the jungle, with our little Pori after the little fox. The fox dives into the water and becomes a fish as Pori dives after it. She can now see herself swimming along the beautiful tiny fishes of the pond as she rides the now huge blue fish through the water. A minute or so and both of them surfaces and now the Baak has transformed into a horse. The horse gallops further down the jungle as Pori clings happily to the back of the horse.

SCENE 7:

The horse has brought her back near to her grandma's village. Seeing the familiar houses at the distant, Pori climbs down from the blue horse. As she looked back at her adventure companion she finds the empty patch of ground beside her instead. Her Baak friend has left. Suddenly a light drizzle of rain soaks her and she runs towards her grandma's hut eager to tell her adventure with the Baak who happened to be her saviour also. Just unknown to her and rest of the world.

STYLE AND LAYOUT





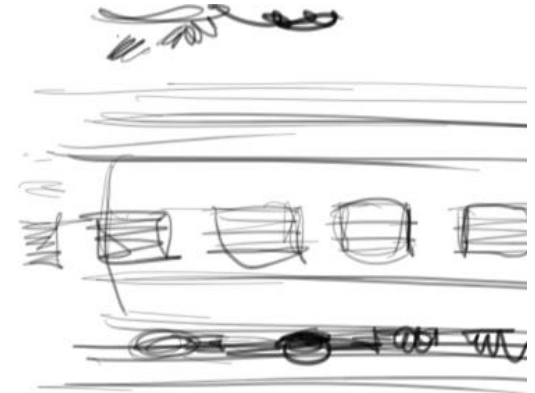
STORYBOARD



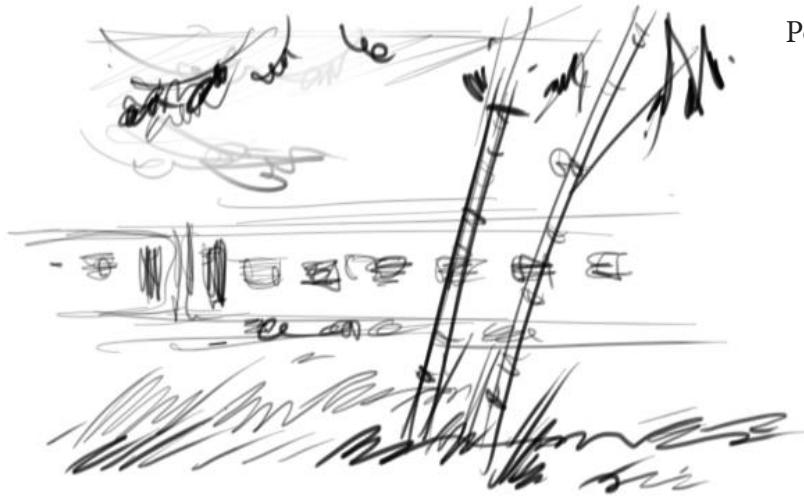
Looking out through the window



Pori is seated beside her mom in a train....



..on her way to her Grandma's place



the train moves across the
lush greenery of Assam

a fisherman's boat sails across a pond

the fisherman is waiting patiently for his
final catch of the day



a unknown blue being emerges out of
the water..grabs a fish and throws it back
in the water

its the village Baak... slowly it helps the oth-
er fishes get out of the boat into the water
..unknown to the fisherman

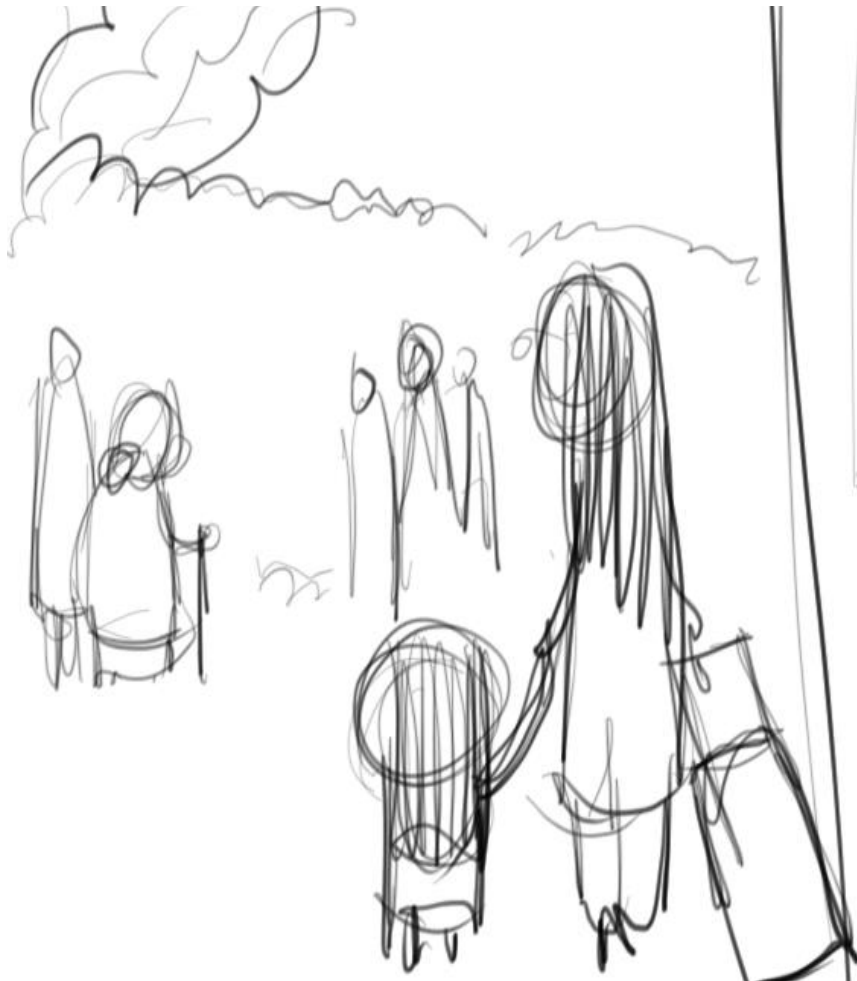
the trains arrives in its destination

Pori and her mom gets down from the train

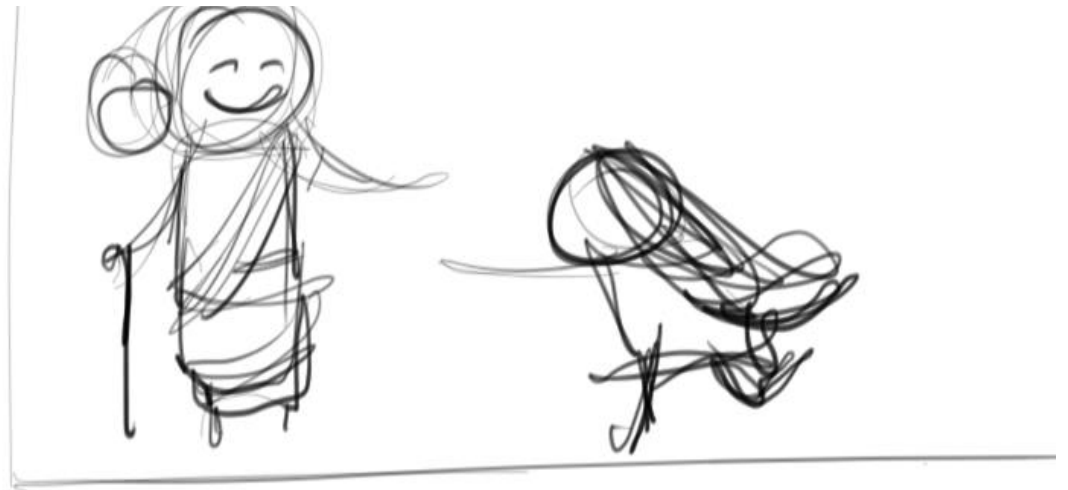


Its her grandma's native village

smoke can be seen coming out at a distant... there is tension in the village as Pori reaches



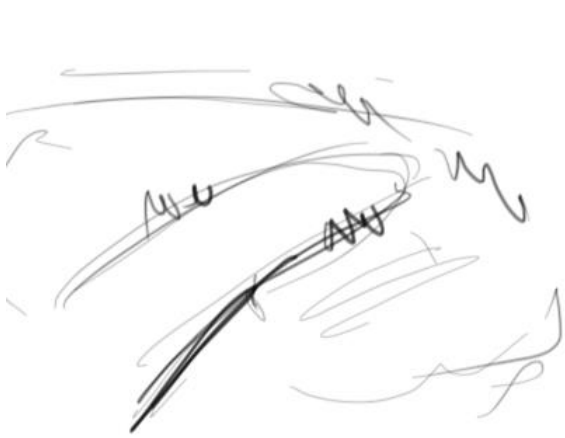
Grandma welcomes her grand-daughter with open arms



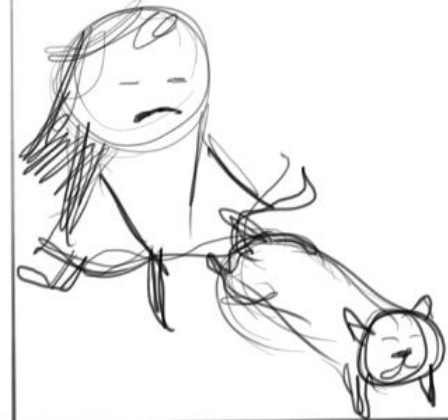
They are so excited to meet after a long time



Pori is playing with the house cat



Suddenly the cat jumps from her lap..
pori runs after her



Grandma warns her not to go too far
into the woods... says a evil Baak lives
there who catches small children



Pori assures her she wountnt go far and
will be safe

Pori wanders deep into the jungle



The baak seems to follow her



It transforms into a blue fox...



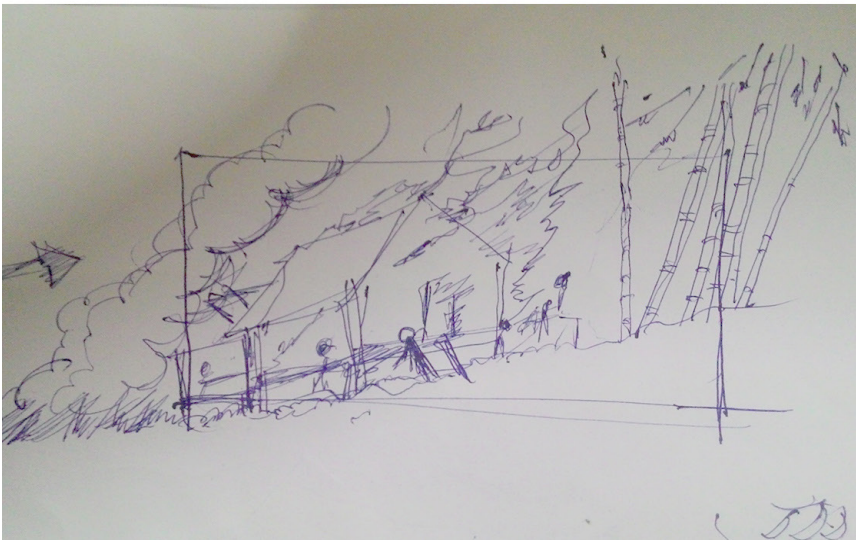
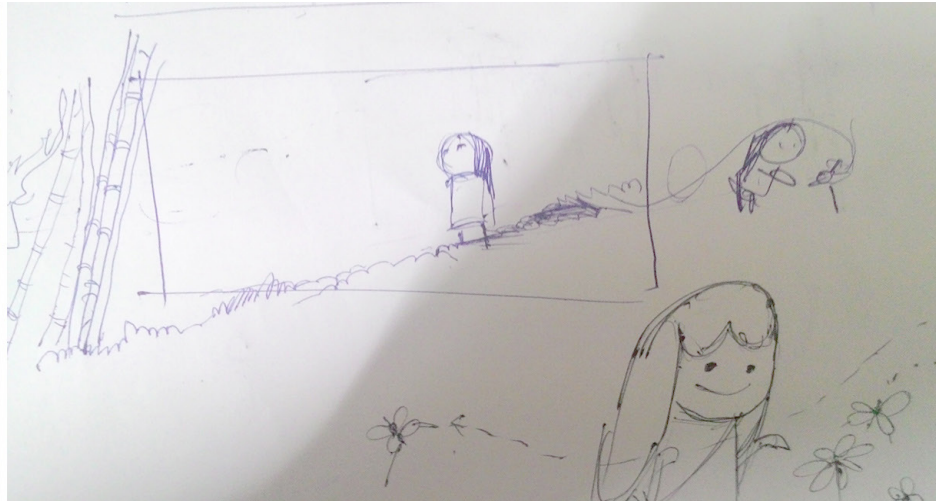
....and watches her afar



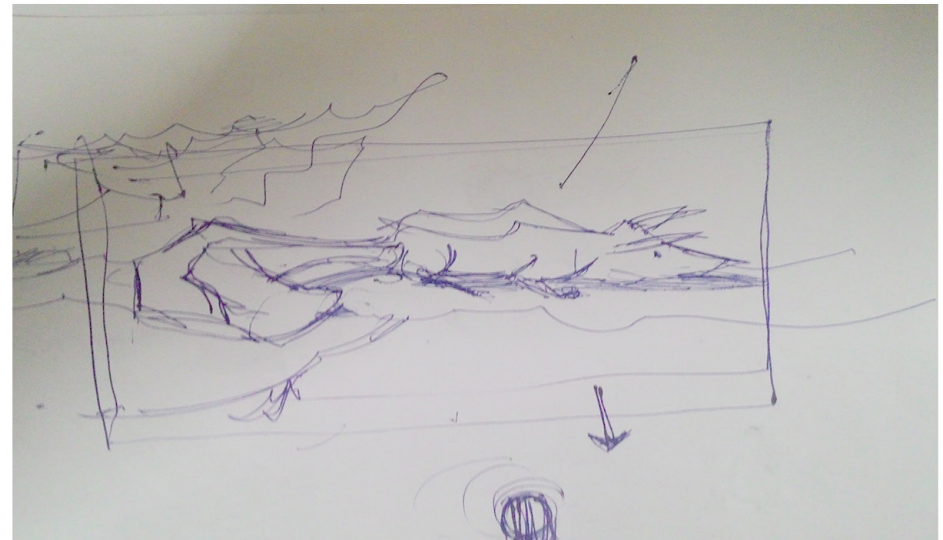
there is a village burning nearby...



as Pori runs after a beautiful butterfly...



...she is dangerously near the place...
some terrorist can be still seen



the baak alarmed at the danger the little
girl might be facing

draws her attention towards it



Pori becomes curious at the sudden strange animal....

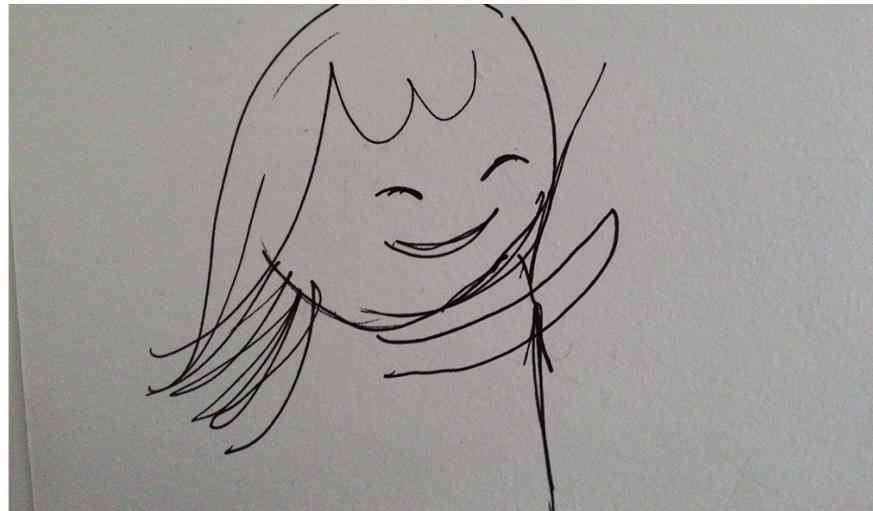


...and follows its trail.. running after the strange blue fox

as the fox transforms into a large fish..



... pori grabs it and swims along a stream



the Baak now transforms into a blue horse



they gallop further into the other safe side of the woods..

... to reach near her grandma's village



Pori is amaze to find her companion
vanish behind her... the Baak is gone
now that she is safe



Pori is so excited to share her little
amazing adventure with her Grand-
mother...



...as she happily runs towards the village

Conclusion

With the feedbacks and guidance from my last project i.e the first phase of my degree project , i could finally have a vision of how the story should follow if i want to convey what i really want to work on. Achieving the final story was never possible without working on the previous stories no matter how much time and effort it consumed I learned the valuable process of brainstorming to come across hundreds of shots and character plots for my storyboards. Ultimately as a music lover, i also was able to get a certain story where i can experiment with my music and animation skills.

References

Tea Buddy - Shona Patel's Thoughts about Tea, Writing and Life
Article: Ghost of the East and West

Motherland Magazine - www.motherlandmagazine.com
Ghost Stories : The Indian Spook Directory

Wikipedia and Google.com
Various Articles on Assamese Culture, Beliefs and Folktale