

MAY 2013 to JUNE 2013



VIDUSHI YADAV
IDC, IIT BOMBAY
CLASS OF 2012-2014

MENTOR: INDU HARIKUMAR
CHILDREN'S AUTHOR,
ILLUSTRATOR
NEW DELHI

Individuality

MAY 2013 - JUNE 2013
Individuality

SUMMER INTERNSHIP
IDC, IIT BOMBAY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would take this opportunity to thank Ms. Indu Harikumar for giving me the opportunity to work under her guidance, for being generous enough to share her experiences and her knowledge with me. For letting me work in the projects I had interest in, for guiding through out and being very kind to me in all the ways possible. Without her guidance and trust this project wouldnt have been possible.

I would also like to thank Ms. Veena Lall, Ms. Navneet and the staff of Karm Marg for allowing me to be in the campus and stay as long as I wish to, For allowing me to take pictures, video footage inspite of their strict security policy. Also, The kind hearted and enthusiastic staff members of Karm Marg for the support and for the tasty food.

I would like to Thank Prof. Nina Sabnani for telling me about my mentor Indu Harikumar.

Lastly I would thank all the kids of Karm Marg for being such a fun to be with, for being utterly welcoming and for making me a small part of their lives.

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

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INDU HARIKUMAR

A Delhi-based children's writer, illustrator and craft teacher. She has worked with various publishing houses — NGO, government bodies and MNC. She makes books with waste like matchboxes, cigarette cases, seedpods, etc and have won the Katha Chitrakala Award (an award that recognizes exemplary illustrations for children's books).

She contributes to various children's magazine in English (Hoot and Toot, Hachette India), Hindi (Chakmak, Eklavya) and Malayalam (Thaliru, Kerala Government) and work three days a week with a non-profit in rural Faridabad. In the past, She has also written for children's magazine, Chandamama.



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SOME BOOKS BY HER

How do we weigh Appukuttan? — English, Eklavya, written and illustrated.

Appukuttan ko toley kaise? - Hindi, Eklavya, illustrated

Kundamandi Gulumal - Malayalam, Purogamana Kalasahitya Samithi, illustrated

My book is the best - Pratham Books, illustrated

By us, for us - Katha, illustrated

The Palanquin Bearers - Katha, illustrated on cloth

Three Friends - Eklavya, written and illustrated on cloth



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ABOUT KARM MARG

Karm Marg Karm Marg is a happy little non profit (NGO) based out of New Delhi and Rural Faridabad in India which works with inspiring young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and courageous rural women.



ASPIRATIONS OF THE PROJECT

I decided to work under an independent artist and an artist who is active in social set up. The projects that I was offered by her were interesting to me, especially I wanted to have a hands on experience working with kids.

It has been very interesting and challenging to figure out ways through which we can use storytelling and simple ways of animation to teach the young kids with a challenging past. For 15 days I went to a non profit called Karm Marg to conduct storytelling workshops for kids who live there in the Karm Marg campus, situated in rural Faridabad.



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PROJECTS OFFERED AT KARM MARG

During the tenure I was supposed to travel to suburbs of Faridabad where the Karm Marg campus is situated every alternate day to be with kids, understand their requirements and set up as well as the limitations and reasons behind them. This was required for me to understand the best and creative way to apply my knowledge of animation and storytelling to help them develop an understanding about the craft and its application relevant to them.

Later on I came up with a proposal of conducting tactile story telling workshops with the kids.

Also, apart from the series of workshops that I conducted there, They also wanted me to illustrate small rhyming books for kids, The rhymes were developed by the kids of Karm marg, so that they can be sold as a Karm Marg product in the market.



PROJECT BRIEF

To understand the storytelling process and how children from disadvantaged backgrounds can be benefitted from them. To use storytelling to make learning a fun process for kids. and to conduct storytelling workshops with kids in Karm Marg.

RESEARCH STORYTELLING PROCESS AND APPLICATION

People instinctively organize their thoughts as stories. The practice of storytelling is not a new one. Stories have always carried messages even before people could write. The art of storytelling in recent days has made a resurgence in business marketing and education. People are realizing the power that narrative has an engaging and informing power.

LEARNING THROUGH STORYTELLING

Within education, these same techniques can be used to create an emotional connection with curricular content.

Through the power of story, it is possible that meaning and learning can powerfully coexist and it can instill creativity and flexibility as well as the power of imagination can be developed. Through storytelling concepts, we can build environments and worlds to connect technologies, languages, cultures, generations, and curricula, which will inevitably allow our learners to flourish in their digital future. Rich stories that move teachers, administrators, students, and parents will turn them into one cohesive community of action.

This community would inevitably be invested deeply

These dynamic experiences will empower young people, allowing for the proliferation of information and knowledge, as well as ensuring that they will learn together and from each other. The shared sense of purpose that storytelling concepts create, along with opportunities to call upon individual strengths and abilities will inevitably promote achievement in our schools.



BENEFITS OF STORYTELLING TO KIDS

Story telling is an art that has mental, social and educational benefits on children. Children are great fans of stories and love to listen to them.

Storytelling is an activity that can transfer emotions and feelings and also can boost thinking capacity.

Storytelling is a great activity of learning. At each phase of the development of the story, kids ask questions. A proper teller can use tricks to make them curious and encourage them to ask questions.

Storytelling is the basic training for academic learning. When they see images in the book and listen to the stories, kids learn to associate between images and story and later imagination and visuals. You can increase the memory capacity of children by asking them to remember the stories you have already read for them or asking them to remember where you stopped the previous day. Always demand kids to share their contribution in the stories. Ask them to narrate a possible climax or encourage them to create a new story with the same characters in a story. Imagination is the key to creativity and children can be trained in many ways to develop stronger skills of imagination.

The most bulging benefit of storytelling is increased knowledge in children. They get to know about various places, practices in life, relationships etc., through stories. Most of the stories depict good and bad characters. Listening to stories will help children to have an idea of accepted style of behaviors and must to avoid acts. Stories also allow children to know about their own cultural roots. Differences between cultures and various lifestyles are introduced to kids through stories. All the stories are informative to children,

as being new to the world; they may know very little things about the life in the world. Stories help kids to visualize the plot and characters. Television programs block the imagination power of viewers, but stories are great help in boosting creativity.

Another advantage of listening to stories is that children grow in academic learning. Story telling introduces lot of new vocabulary to children. At homes, people communicate with limited number of words. But stories will have academic level vocabulary and lot of newer words for the kid to learn. It is easy to teach the meanings of the words as kids learn faster from the context of story.

Infancy is the period when children absorb most of the words they use in the future. Story telling also encourages children to participate actively in the learning process. It can enhance the listening skills of children. storytelling gives them with the necessary training to listen and understand instead of talking.

Storytelling parents are found to have more emotional bond with the children. It teaches the children to be creative and make them dynamic thoughts and action.



Why encourage students to learn through stories?

Storytelling is a powerful and enduring means of communication that has widespread appeal. It crosses cultures and communities; in fact, many of our earliest learning experiences most likely involved stories, some told to us directly, others read and, still more, played out around us. Even before we had the ability to articulate what we knew, felt and thought, we learned to make sense of our world through stories.

Although educators have always used storytelling, until recently these stories often occurred spontaneously and were not considered integral to learning and teaching activities.

Storytelling is an ideal teaching and learning tool, for it takes seriously the need for students to make sense of experience, using their own culturally generated sense-making processes

What benefits does learning through storytelling have for students?

To learn through storytelling is to take seriously the human need to make meaning from experience, to communicate that meaning to others, and, in the process, learn about ourselves and the worlds in which we reside. Meaningful storytelling processes and activities incorporate opportunities for reflective dialogue, foster collaborative endeavour, nurture the spirit of inquiry and contribute to the construction of new knowledge. In addition, cultural, contextual and emotional realities can be acknowledged, valued and integrated into storytelling processes.

Students who learn through telling and reflectively processing their stories develop skills that enable them to link subjective and objective perspectives, capture the complexity of experience and bring about thoughtful change to self and practice. When storytelling is used as a robust mode of inquiry, student learning is enhanced in multiple ways



THE PROPOSAL SEQUENTIAL STORYTELLING

STORIES THROUGH TACTILE MEDIUMS

- Activity based learning – more engagement
- Builds perspective on places, life, relationships, behaviours, cultures.
- Enhanced exposure
- Increased imagination
- Build creativity.

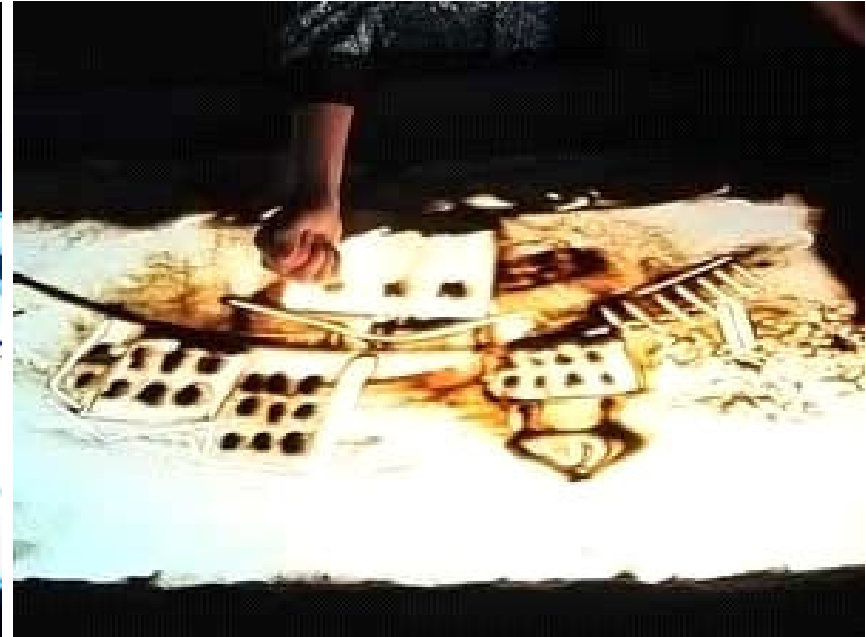
WHY TACTILE?

- Explores various textures and tactile experiences.
- Colour sensitivity.
- Transformations – One image leads to another.
- Low cost.
- Re-usable.

METHOD THROUGH RANGOLI

Creating images by creating areas of light and shadow on a back lighting or bright surface which are then changed for the next sequence.

The illusion of movement is created by slowly modifying rangoli frame by frame.



THE PROPOSAL SEQUENTIAL STORYTELLING

STORIES THROUGH TACTILE MEDIUMS

Another idea was to convey and act out stories through simple paper puppets made during the activity workshop. Each kid will make 2-3 paper puppets by simple cutting and pasting techniques and he can then develop stories around them and at the final day they can act out their stories by the medium of that puppet, voice modulations and facial expressions. Students use gestures and body language to help define the characters and show action in a story. The students display their creativity by showing the action of the character. Students display their ability to show moods and attitudes.

THE WORKSHOP CONCEPT AND IDEATION



DEMONSTRATION



DEVELOPMENT



DEVELOPMENT



THE OUTCOME







THE PERFORMANCE

ABDUL'S STORY



THE PERFORMANCE

SHABANA'S STORY



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THE PERFORMANCE

GITA'S STORY



THE PERFORMANCE

RAJU'S STORY



THE PERFORMANCE

RIHANA'S STORY



THE PERFORMANCE

SHAMA'S STORY

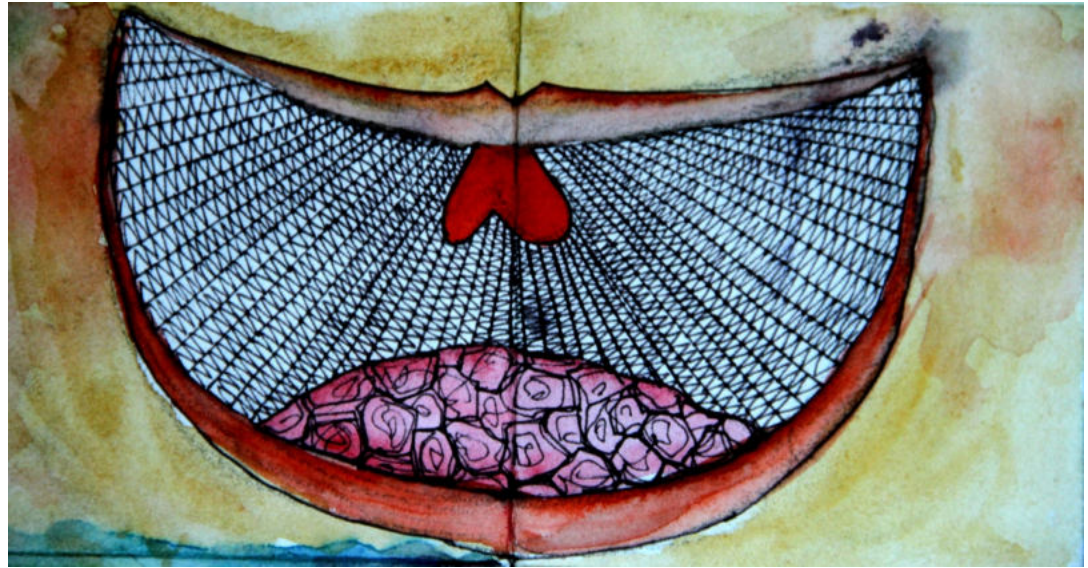


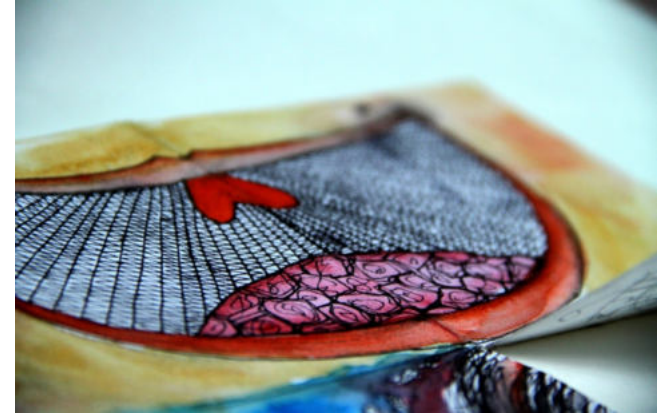
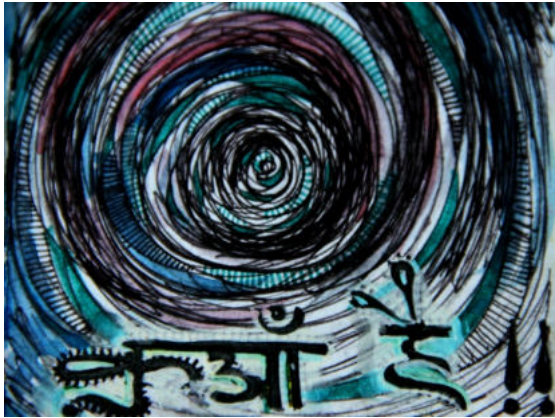
PROJECT TWO

RHYMING BOOK FOR KIDS

Project two was to illustrate a small pocket book for kids, It was a small book for kids rhyme done at Karm Marg. The project required me to understand the style of illustrations that kids can relate to. I decided to stick to bright colours with not-very-realistic illustrations, with dramatic details.

The rhyme included a 5 line small poem done by a kid at Karm Marg. Karm Marg hopes to sell the pocket book as a Karm marg product.







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THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

The form of the book was explored in a way so that it gives an idea of time and space. Since it was rhyme with each line with an attitude and spirit of its own still weaved in one, so I decided to make a foldable small book. It was highly economical to print as it won't include the need to get the binding done. It was a complete experience in itself for kids.



AN ILLUSTRATION DONE FOR KATHA

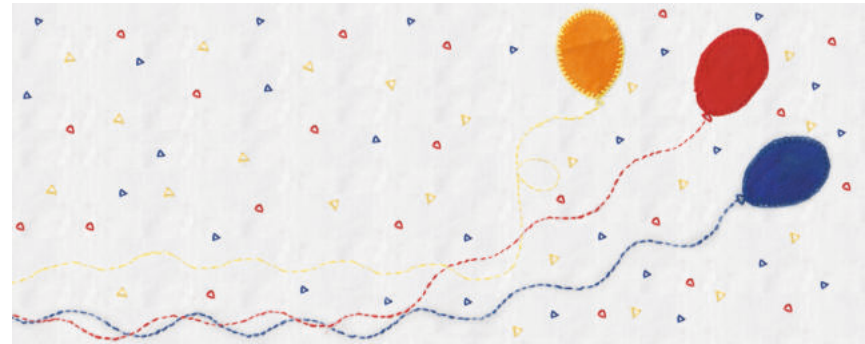
THE NICEST HOUSE IN THE WORLD



PROJECT THREE

TO MAKE A SMALL ANIMATION MOVIE OF A BOOK OF EKLAVYA PUBLICATIONS

This picture book from eklavya publications is for very small kids to help them understand how to make secondary colours out of primary colours through the medium of pictures and illustrations. The illustrations are done by my Mentor Indu Harikumar. I was asked to make a small animation out of those illustrations.



THE PROCESS

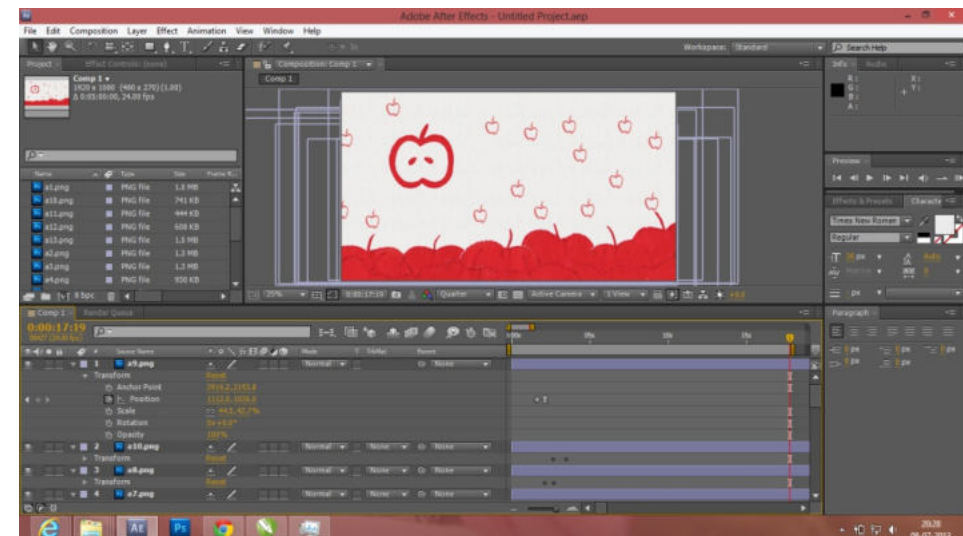
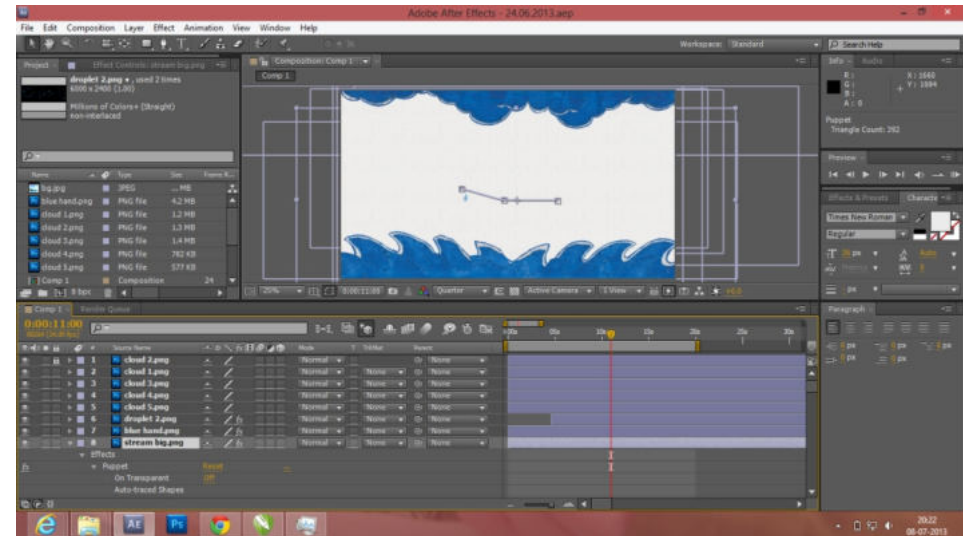
The process included understanding of the illustrations and how to convert them into an animation.

As the first step I started with cleaning the illustrations keeping in mind the animatics of the movie. The animatics or how do I want to animate the has been done in the form of rough sketches. A small story board was made in order to understand the timing and the length of the movie.

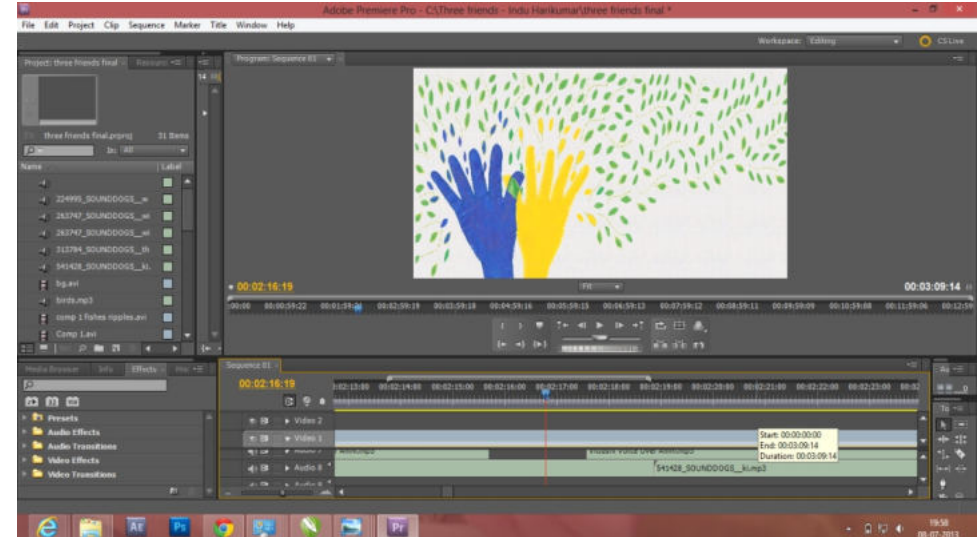
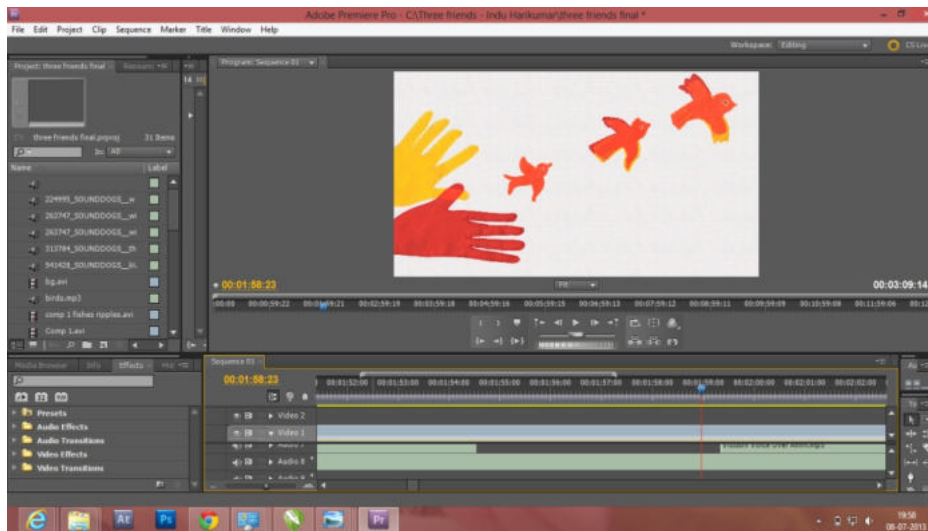
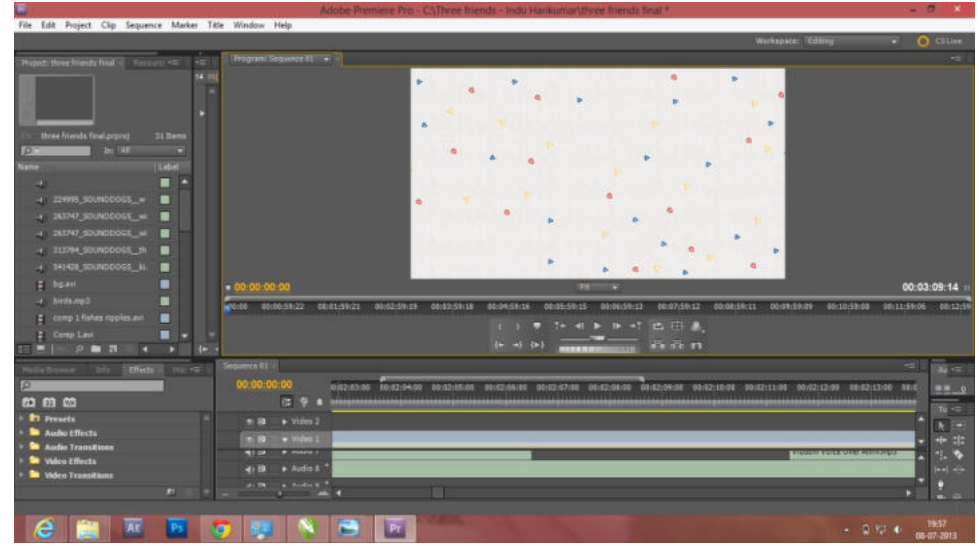
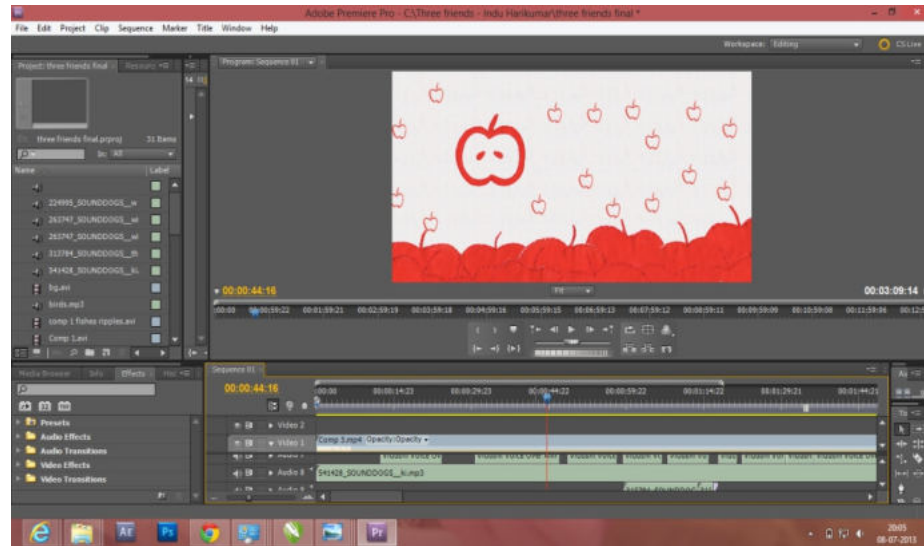
The individual shots were then animated in after affects using basic animation tools such as rotation, position, opacity, scale and puppet tools.

Once all the shots are done they were arranged sequentially in Adobe premier and was edited accordingly.

After that the voice editing was done. A voice over artist was then hired for the narration and then the final sound editing was done.



THE FINAL EDITING



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LEARNING

The summer internship with Indu harikumar was a very insightful journey. She is an artist who writes, illustrates and teaches. The best part was to be with the kids, your target audience who you write and work for, this way we know the growing needs of kids in today's world without being confused by what records have to say. Hence the approach of the artist gets more need based.

Working with kids, conducting storytelling workshops with them was fun and learning for me as well. They taught me much more than what I might have given them.

The completion of the small animation movie was also very insightful since I had to figure out all the ways to get it done. We even hired a recording studio and a voice over artist.

Over all working while being a part of the industry can be very challenging and also insightful.



