



Rohana Reads Aloud

All Rohana wants to do is escape into the magical world of her book, but her siblings keep interrupting her. Can Rohana find a way to read and keep them happy too?



Rohana Reads Aloud
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Let's Read



The Asia Foundation



Rohana's mother is leaving for a traditional ceremony, and Rohana has to take care of her brother and sister. Rohana wants to finish reading her book.



Rohana's brother and sister are busy playing. Maybe now is a good time for Rohana to read the book her father gave her yesterday. It is a Dutch storybook called *De Circus*.



Now is not a good time to read. She has to help her sister first.



Her brother needs help too. When will she ever be able to finish her book?



Oh no, what should she do now? She has to chase Ratna again!



What if she reads out loud?



"Ruskan! Come join us." Rohana reads aloud.



It works! Ratna and Ruskan love the Dutch story about the circus.



Rohana retells the story in Indonesian. This helps Ratna and Ruskan understand.



They can all enjoy the story together.



Now, Rohana can read while she takes care of her brother and sister.



All of their friends come to listen to the stories too!



"The end!"



Wow, so many people love listening to stories. Rohana realizes she loves reading stories aloud. She wants to do it everyday.



Rohana's stories make her friends want to learn to read and write.
Rohana can teach them!



Maybe the people in this park would like to listen to the articles in this newspaper.



Yes! They like it! Rohana likes to read aloud to anyone who love stories.

This story was inspired by a female scholar from Minangkabau, West Sumatra, named Rohana Kudus. Rohana was born December 20th, 1884, in Koto Gadang, West Sumatra, Indonesia. Her father, Mohammad Rasjad Maharadja Soetan, worked as an officer for the Dutch government. Rohana's father liked reading books to her, and teaching her to read, write, count, and speak in Arabic, Dutch, and Malay. This made her different from other girls at that time who did not go to school and could not read and write. Rohana taught her friends to read and write. She kept teaching until she grew up and became an activist. She founded Amai Setia, a school for women. She also established a number of newspapers, including Sunting Melayu, a local newspaper dedicated to women readers. Rohana Kudus was the first female journalist in Indonesia.



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