



The Great Teacher
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Let's  Read

 The Asia Foundation



Sarah is visiting her cousin Reta for the first time.

Sarah came all the way from Ottawa, Canada.



Sarah brought a gift for Reta.

“Wow, this is a souvenir from Riedau Canal!”

Reta says. “This is where tourists can do boat-riding, fishing, and skiing.”

Sarah does not expect that reaction. How does Reta know?



Yum! This food looks delicious. Where should Sarah start?

The fruit salad looks interesting. Reta says it's called *rujak*.



The rujak is very spicy.
Water! Sarah needs water.



"Salt, warm water, and milk are all good for soothing a burnt tongue.

My teacher told me that," says Reta.

Hm... she's right! The burning sensation is instantly gone.

"Your teacher is smart," Sarah tells Reta.



Later that day, Reta and Sarah go shopping. Reta brings along a shopping bag with her. "My teacher told me that this is one way to reduce the use of plastic," she tells Sarah. Sarah wants to get to know Reta's teacher.



How much will the food cost? Reta does the math on her fingers.

Wow, the number matches the one shown in the calculator.

"My teacher taught me how to add things quickly," Reta tells Sarah.



How can Sarah meet Reta's teacher?
"Be patient," Reta says in English.
Her teacher must have taught her that, too!



Yay! Sarah gets to go with Reta to study in her teacher's house.

No registration and no cost. That is easy!

But what is that broom for?



On their way, Sarah and Reta meet other children. They are all going to study. They also bring cleaning tools. Reta says her teacher cannot clean her house by herself.



Sarah is excited to meet this teacher.
"If we run, we can get there faster," she says.



Oh no!



“Don’t worry,” Reta says. “Our teacher will have something that can help.”



They have arrived!



Finally, Sarah gets to meet Reta's teacher.



Wow! Some children are studying math, some are studying English, and some science. Sarah thinks it is a great way to learn.



Reta's teacher is inspired by a woman named Een Sukaesih, often known as Bu Een. Bu Een graduated from the Indonesian University of Education in Bandung. She suffered from a disease called Rheumatoid Arthritis, which made her immobile for 27 years. Being persistent, Bu Een kept teaching while laying down, from 8 am to 8 pm. She taught English, history, computers, and math. Any child who wanted to learn was welcomed. Her students

loved her so much so they all helped her with chores after their learning was done for the day.



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Original Story

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