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*HIC!* is an ideal read-aloud book as well as a fun early reader with playful and absurd text by India's most popular nonsense-verse writer Anushka Ravishankar.

It's bold, graphic and humorous art along with inventive use of type enact and enhance the absurdity of the text. Every picture is a visual surprise. One page gives you instructions, followed by an unexpected visual in the next page. The surprise also escalates.

We have noticed that this book works well for children of all ages, with both verbal and visual delights to offer. It is excellent for art and language classroom use to help children imagine, and come up with their own bizarre remedies for hiccups.

**Here is a set of activities, asking children to do a variety of tasks. An educator can take them through this list carefully and explain what needs to be done.**

1. Note the different places in which the little girl finds herself in, when she has hiccups: a road, floating in rain water; a classroom; swimming pool...The artist has provided different settings for the little girl in the story. Why do you think the artist has done this?

2. What is interesting about these settings? Look at each of them carefully: notice what happens to the girl when she has a hiccup or when she tries to get rid of it. What happens to everything around her?

3. What is the funniest scene in the book for you? Why?

4. What makes each of these pictures funny? The words, or the pictures, or how they combine together? Do the pictures tell stories that are different from those told by the words?

5. Look at all the ways in which the word 'HIC' is shown. Does it all express the same thing? Why not? Look especially at the Hic doing yoga. Has it become one of the children? Hint: it's also upside down! Ask the children to try drawing a 'loud' hiccup or a 'shy' hiccup or a 'stubborn' hiccup.

6. You can also introduce children to onomatopoeic words to understand how the sounds can also influence the shape of a word. Ask them to look up such words from comics (for eg: bang, thud, boom, tick tock, roar) or try drawing out animal sounds (for eg: meow, bark, roar).

7. What is a hiccup called in your mother tongue? Which home remedies do you know to get rid of hiccups? Have you come across any strange and funny suggestions? What are the popular myths or superstitions about why we get hiccups? Imagine a bizarre remedy of your own and make it rhyme.

8. How to get hiccups when you don't have it? Can hiccups be induced? Did you know that babies can get hiccups inside the womb? Do animals get hiccups?

9. The word 'hiccup' is also used to suggest a slight problem or an interruption or delay. Can you look at the visuals and see which page also implies that. (Hint: Traffic). Give the children a few examples of using the term in a sentence and ask them to try writing a few sentences on their own.

10. Think of the other different sounds our bodies make. (Hint: sneeze, burps, farts)