

AGES 3-5
EARLY YEARS

THE WAD TRIBE

Where Everyone Is Welcome!

Tach plays in Croke Park



Written by **Saniya Chughtai**

Resource Pack

Welcome to Wadiland

Somewhere beyond the ordinary world lies WadiLand, a universe of colourful characters, unexpected adventures and stories where even the smallest hero can discover something extraordinary about themselves.

In Tach Plays in Croke Park, Tach and his friends discover the excitement of hurling. When the enormous Grogochs make Tach feel scared, he learns that focusing, trying again and working with his team can help him find his courage.



TACH

the small, timid turtle who loves hurling. When the enormous Grogochs make him feel scared, Tach learns to focus, trust his team and keep trying.

From WadiLand to Croke Park

In this adventure, Tach discovers the excitement of hurling, the importance of teamwork and how focusing on what matters can help when we feel afraid.

About the Author

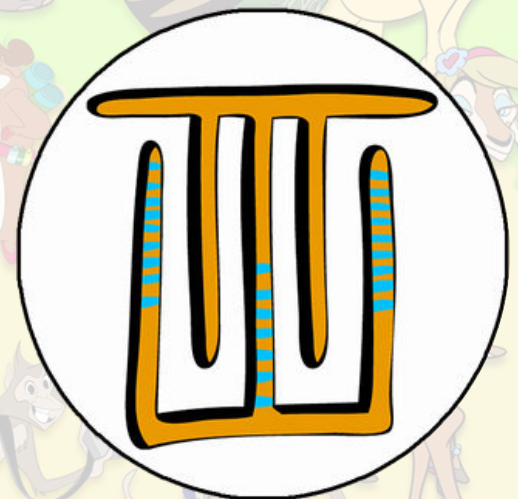
Meet the Author - Saniya Chughtai

Saniya Chughtai is an award-winning children's author, storyteller and founder of The Wadi Tribe. She has written more than fourteen books for young readers, translated into Arabic, Urdu and Irish, and recognised with honours including the TCK Publishing Readers Choice Award and the Royal and Purple Dragonfly Awards. Through The Wadi Tribe, Saniya creates imaginative stories that entertain first, while naturally exploring confidence, empathy, courage, friendship and belonging. Her school visits bring these stories to life through expressive storytelling, character voices and interactive workshops, helping children fall in love with books and discover the storyteller within themselves.



About The Wadi Tribe

The Wadi Tribe is a children's edutainment brand founded in Dubai in 2018, built around a universe of original characters, WadiLand, where every story is designed to help children feel seen, celebrated and inspired. Each character carries their own social and emotional value, from courage and self-acceptance to kindness and honest friendship, woven naturally into adventures full of humour, warmth and cultural discovery. Multicultural and inclusive at its core, The Wadi Tribe believes every child deserves stories that reflect the world they see around them, and grow the hearts of the children who read them.



Curriculum Links



TWT SEL Guiding Principles

Each Wadi Tribe title is developed against a specific social and emotional learning (SEL) competency, drawn from the CASEL 5 framework (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning): Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making.

- **Self-Awareness**

Tach recognises that he feels frightened when he sees how much bigger the grogochs are. He begins to understand how fear affects his body, thoughts and confidence.

- **Self-Management**

Coach Saltur teaches Tach to manage his fear by shifting his attention back to the sliotar. Tach practises focusing on what he can control instead of becoming overwhelmed by the grogochs.

- **Social Awareness**

Tach begins to understand that feeling afraid does not mean he cannot take part or succeed. He also sees that different players bring different strengths to the game, regardless of their size.

- **Relationship Skills**

Tach learns that the Wadi Tribe cannot win through one player alone. By communicating with his teammates, making a plan and working together, the team becomes stronger.

- **Responsible Decision-Making**

Tach chooses not to give up. He listens to Coach Saltur's advice, stays focused and makes decisions that help both himself and his team during the match.



Curriculum Links



KHDA Wellbeing Matters

Four domains of student wellbeing:

- **Psychological – recognising and managing fear**

(Tach facing the much larger grogochs)

- **Cognitive – focus and problem-solving**

(Tach learning to focus on the sliotar)

- **Social – relationships and community**

(The Wadi Tribe playing together as a team)

- **Physical – movement, coordination and confidence**

(Developing skills through hurling)

UAE Moral, Social and Cultural (MSC) Studies

Four pillars, per the UAE Ministry of Education:

- **Character and Morality – courage and perseverance**

(Tach continuing to play even when he feels afraid)

- **The Individual and the Community – belonging and teamwork**

(The Wadi Tribe using their different strengths as a team)

- **Civic Studies – cooperation and shared responsibility**

(Players working together towards a shared goal)

- **Cultural Studies – appreciating cultural traditions**

(Discovering hurling and Croke Park as part of Irish sporting culture)

UK Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development – managing emotions**

(Recognising fear and finding ways to keep going)

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development – building relationships**

(Playing cooperatively and supporting teammates)

- **Physical Development – movement and coordination**

(Exploring movement through hurling-inspired activities)

Tach plays in Croke Park



About This Adventure

Tach is a small, timid turtle who loves hurling but sometimes feels nervous when things seem too big or difficult.

When the Wadi Tribe team plays against the mighty Grogochs, Tach is frightened by their enormous size. With Coach Saltur's encouragement, he learns to focus on the sliotar, trust his teammates and keep trying. Through the excitement of the match, Tach discovers that being brave does not mean you are never scared. Sometimes courage means giving something a go, even when you feel afraid.

Meet the Characters



Tach -
the timid little turtle
learning to be brave



Saltur -
the wise old turtle
and the team's coach



Babarro -
the chatty parrot and
lively match
commentator



Grogochs -
the mighty red, hairy
giants who play
against the Wadi Tribe
team

Also appearing: Tach's teammates Turwa and Kaw, and Marich the referee.

Pre-Reading Questions

- Have you ever felt nervous before playing a game?
- What can you do when something feels scary?
- What makes a good teammate?
- Do you know what hurling is?
- What do you think Tach will do when he meets the enormous Grogochs?

Lesson One: Finding Your Focus



Learning Objectives

- To recognise when something feels scary
- To understand that focusing can help when we feel scared
- To practise staying focused on one simple task



Main Activity: Find Your Focus

Revisit the part of the story where Tach sees the enormous Grogochs and feels scared. Coach Saltur encourages him to focus on the sliotar, the small ball used in hurling, instead of the Grogochs.

Give each child a soft ball or beanbag. Ask them to focus on it while completing a simple task, such as rolling it towards a target or passing it to a partner.

Add gentle distractions, such as clapping or calling their name. Afterwards, talk about what helped them keep their focus.

Teacher note: Keep distractions gentle and playful. No touching or startling.



Reflection Questions

- What made Tach feel scared?
- What helped Tach to focus?
- What helps you when something feels scary?



Extension Task

Children draw one thing that sometimes feels scary and one thing that could help them feel calmer or more confident.

Lesson Two: We're Better Together



Learning Objectives

- To understand what it means to be part of a team
- To recognise that everyone can help in different ways
- To practise working together towards a shared goal



Main Activity: Teamwork Challenge

Revisit the part of the story where Tach and his teammates have to work together during the hurling match.

Ask the children: What makes a good team?

Divide the children into small groups. Give each group a soft ball or beanbag and a simple goal, such as moving the ball from one end of the group to the other.

Each child must help the ball reach the finish without anyone being left out.

Try it again and encourage the children to talk, listen and help one another.

Teacher note: The aim is cooperation, not speed or winning. Make sure every child has a turn.



Reflection Questions

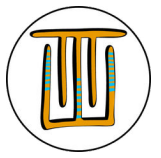
- How did Tach's team help each other?
- How did your team work together?
- How can you be a good teammate?



Extension Task

Children draw themselves as part of a team and add one thing they can do to help, such as sharing, listening, encouraging or taking turns.

Bonus: Discover Hurling



What is Hurling?

Hurling is a very old Irish game. Players use a wooden stick called a hurley to hit a small ball called a sliotar.

It is a fast game with lots of running, teamwork and skill.

And What is Camogie?

Camogie is the women's form of hurling. Players also use a hurley and sliotar.

Words from the Game

Hurley / Camán: The wooden stick used to play the game.

Sliotar: The small ball used in hurling.

GAA: The Gaelic Athletic Association, which helps people play Gaelic games.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children all around the world play hurling and other Gaelic games.

TRY IT!

Look at the hurley and sliotar.
What other games do they remind you of?



Continue the Adventure

Thank you for exploring Tach Plays in Croke Park with your class. We hope Tach's adventure encourages children to keep trying when things feel scary, believe in themselves and discover how much fun it can be to play and work together.

CHILDREN'S BOOK

Keep Exploring

Discover more stories, classroom resources and author visits from **The Wadi Tribe**.



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Interested in an author visit?

Bring Saniya Chughtai and The Wadi Tribe to your school for storytelling, workshops and curriculum-linked activities.

Different
stories, a
brighter world

