

## **Zero Squad**

### **Class 3-5**

**Eka** and **Dvita** are 10 year old unlikely 'twins' who are extraordinary at Math. They form a strong and firm friendship while using math, logic, and creative reasoning to solve local crimes and mysteries that befuddle even the grown-ups around them.

It all begins in Nagpur. As soon as Dvita and her family move to the town, she find herself set on an adventure. She makes friends with Eka and the Gully Gang, and together, they crack a code and solve a kidnapping. From this moment on, they are the super sleuths of the town. From this moment on, whenever Eka and Dvita they move to new towns, their reputation precedes them.

Their days are spent at school, and their afternoons are wide open to adventure, a bit like the 80's where the influence of television or gadgets were minimal and children ran about and played freely. The duo engage in flights of fantasy as they go on their adventures, imagining themselves as daredevils and costumed heroes while at them. Stones when thrown transform into fireballs, and a small bump in the road becomes a ramp as their bicycles - nay, motorcycles - fly across buildings and cars!

To be fair, their adventures deal with serious stuff. Eka and Dvita expose local racketeers and tricksters, they decipher mysteries and bust hoaxes, and they always help people along the way. They often solve parts of crimes that the adults in the story are also simultaneously working on.

### **Cast of Characters**

- Dvita's father **Raja Ram** is a **District Collector** who is often transferred. Thus, Dvita has spent her whole life travelling among tier two cities and rural India. Raja Ram is particularly above reproach in his service to the government and thus often tends to be a thorn on the side for powerful individuals both in the system and in society. When Raja Ram is transferred to Nagpur, Eka and Dvita's paths cross - and their worlds change.
- **Dvita** is book-smart, dauntless, and fierce. She is a firecracker who cannot be held back or told that there is something that she cannot (or should not) do. She's a fantastic bowler! She is a

little bit headstrong, but is also kind, honest, and loving. She is an only child - until Eka comes into her life.

- **Eka** is street-smart, fearless, and earnest to do good and change the world. Like any boy his age, he is also often adamant and difficult, and does not like being teased by (or about) girls. He is new to school. Or rather, school is new to Eka! He is primarily a self-taught student. He admires Raja Ram Uncle, Dvita's father, and wants an education so that he can learn to fight crime the way he does - with the law. Eka is excellent at Math - but not the best at English. He is responsible and sincere, and is the 'big brother' of his gang of friends - the Gully Gang.
- The **Gully Gang** is Eka's group of friends/family. **Jaggu, Chintu, Raju, Ali, Peter, and Swati** are all orphans, just like Eka. Their headquarters are in a large banyan tree near the home that they live in - where they are taken care of by the friendliest old man in Nagpur - Mohan Chacha.
- **Mohan Chacha** is an old friend of Dvita's grandfather, and is also the protector and caregiver for Eka and his friends. He houses the Gully Gang in his single-story, old, ramshackle - but loving - home. He loves to tell stories that teach values and morals, and draws from religio-philosophy and mythology.
- Dvita usually spends her summer holidays in the company of her grandfather, **Professor Ved**. She exchanges letters and postcards with him every once in a while.

### **The Story Begins**

- 10 year old **Dvita** is an only child. Or at least, she was an only child until Eka appeared. He has now firmly made space for himself in her life. Like all siblings, they get along all the time - except when they don't. She has a lot of adjusting to do to accept Eka into her life as a sibling - someone who will share her parents' time and attention.
- The story begins with Dvita looking out of her car window, as they drive past the Rumi Darwaza in Lucknow. She and Eka have just tied in a quiz competition - they are equally matched. She thinks to herself that it wasn't always this easy and simple -

reflecting on how they've gotten to where they are.

- This leads into her memories, which are the basis of Season 1, the story of how Eka and Dvita met, and the adventures they've had in Nagpur.

### **Season 1**

Season 1 opens on Aug 15th, 2017. Eka and Dvita are facing off against each other in a Math and Science quiz. They tie. On their way home, Dvita reflects on how they got there...

...And begins thinking about Nagpur, one year ago. Dvita and her family have just moved there. She is eager to explore the city and make new friends - and starts with looking for Mohan Chacha, whom her grandfather has spoken to her about. When she goes to meet him, she also meets the Gully Gang. She and Eka do not immediately hit it off, because she throws a ball that runs him out! Over time, and through their detective adventures, they develop a healthy respect, camaraderie, and over the course of the season, a sibling-like relationship.

At the end of Season 1, honest Raja Ram is accused of an enormous crime that he could not have - would not have - committed. Eka and Dvita crack the crime and save his reputation. This is the final push that Dvita's family needs to adopt Eka into the family and take him with them when they move to their next town, Lucknow.

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