

Sur Pippa

'Notes of Running Feet'
English in Primary Textbooks

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with

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an eklavya publication

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Rimli Bhattacharya and Anuja Madan
with Sreyoshi Sarkar and Nivedita Basu
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'Notes of Running feet' from Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*, 2005

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Sur Pippa

For Pippa, friend, colleague and accomplice in continental exchanges...

Pippa Stein (1956-2008) taught at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, but her interests and commitment spilled over to many other spaces.

Our collaboration began via e-mail in the summer of 2004 over a comparative project on 'subject English' spanning three cities, Delhi, Johannesburg and London. Over the next three years, six of us, colleagues from each of these cities, worked intensively, meeting in different continents, focusing on classroom interaction, and trying to understand our respective locations, the specific problems as well as the shared histories of our countries. Pippa held us all together. A few excerpts from her writing come at the end of this book.

Sur Pippa as a project had a spontaneous origin one evening in 2008 when I was in a meeting with the Eklavya team and came to know that Pippa was no more. I have since worked together with my students, friends and strangers on this and other projects, including one on lullabies, with the belief that something of Pippa's vision, courage and compassion must inspire and sustain us in these difficult times.

The name I chose — *Sur Pippa* — resonates in many tongues like a melody dancing through time and space.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rimi".