Mina and the Colour Bazaar

A Picture Book That Teaches Urdu Colour Words · Ferngleam

Mina and the Colour Bazaar

A Picture Book That Teaches Urdu Colour Words

Ferngleam · First free edition, October 2026

This book is free. You are welcome to download, read, print and share it, unchanged and free of charge. Please don't sell it.

The story text, the illustrations and the audio narration were made with AI tools, then edited and checked for this edition. The Urdu words and spellings are machine-assisted and pending native-speaker review.

Read by a computer voice: Piper text-to-speech, "Cori" voice (en_GB-cori-high) by Bryce Beattie, public domain.

Before You Read

This is a story about Mina, her Abbu’s bazaar stall, and eight Urdu colour words you can learn too.

As you read, say each new word out loud — and look for that colour in the picture!

Morning light spilled over the busy bazaar. Mina held Abbu’s hand as they reached their fruit-and-cloth stall under a bright striped awning.

Crates of fruit and bolts of cloth waited in neat rows, ready for the day.

“Will you help me sort today?” asked Abbu with a warm smile. “We will learn the Urdu names for colours as we work.”

Mina stood tall beside the crates. “I am ready!”

Abbu held up a shiny apple. “This colour is لال — laal — red,” he said slowly so she could hear every sound.

Mina repeated, “Laal!” and set the apple gently in a basket.

Next came a bunch of ripe bananas. “This colour is پیلا — peela — yellow.”

Mina giggled and tucked them carefully beside the red apples.

Green mangoes gleamed in a wooden crate. “ہرا — hara — green,” said Abbu.

Mina stacked them carefully, whispering, “Hara, hara,” with each mango.

Abbu unrolled a bolt of bright cloth across the stall. “نیلا — neela — blue, like the morning sky.”

Mina touched the soft fabric and said, “Neela.”

Long strings of white jasmine garlands hung at a flower stall nearby. “سفید — safaid — white,” Abbu told her.

Mina sniffed one and smiled. “Safaid — and so sweet!”

Black grapes shone in a little bowl. “کالا — kaala — black,” said Abbu.

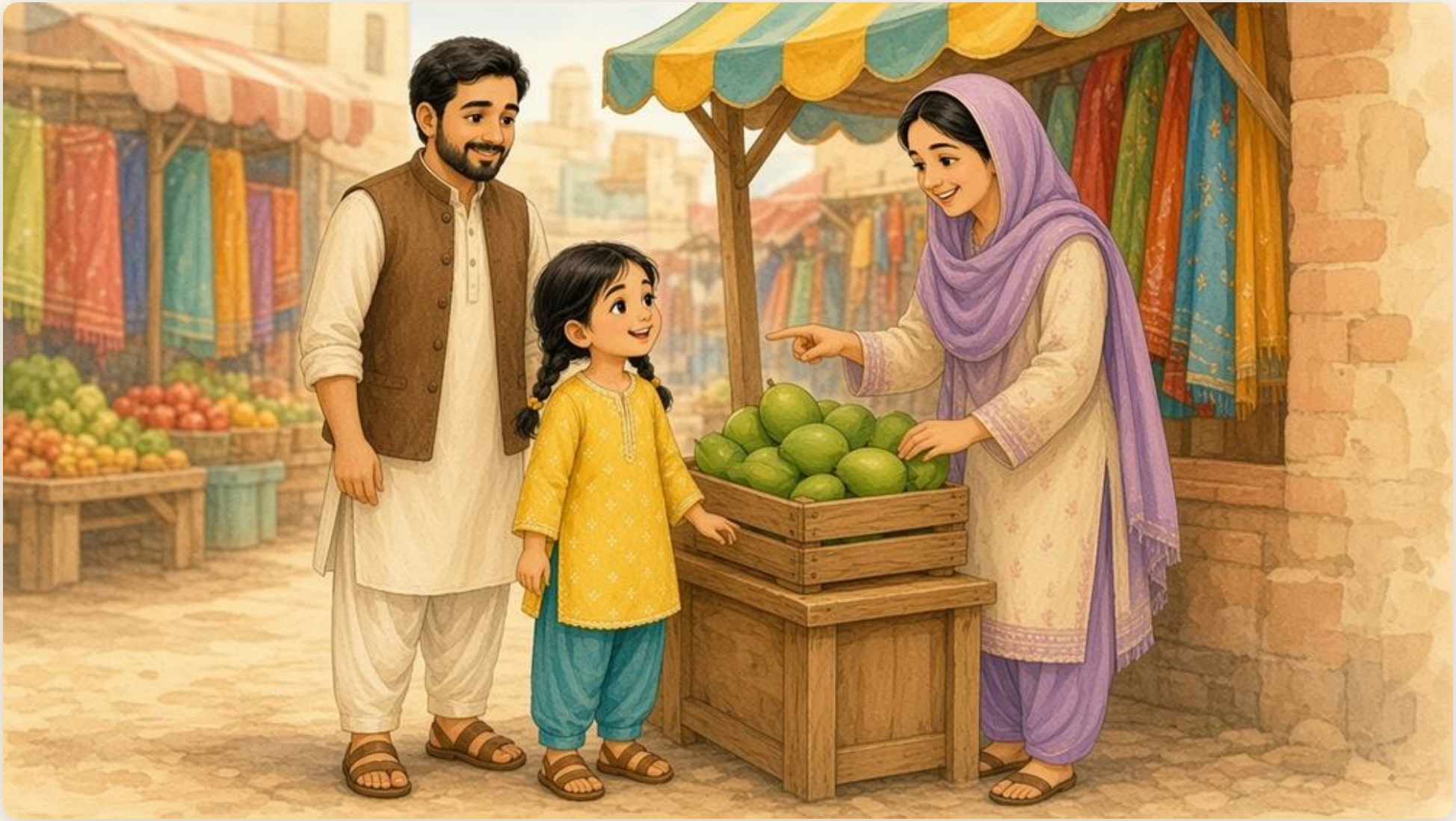
Mina counted them one by one and grinned. “Kaala grapes!”

Then came round oranges, bright as little suns. “نارنجی — narangi — orange — just like the fruit!” Abbu laughed.

Mina rolled one gently into her palm and practised the new word.

Last, Abbu held a small bunch of pink roses. “گلابی — gulabi — pink,” he said.

Mina held one soft rose to her cheek and whispered, “Gulabi.”



A customer pointed at the mangoes. “The green ones, please.”

Mina answered proudly, “Hara — green!” Abbu’s eyes shone with pride.

Walking home beside Abbu and his small blue cloth bundle, Mina named every colour she saw: a red auto-rickshaw, orange-yellow marigolds by a doorway, the blue sky above.

The bazaar felt full of new words, and she could hardly wait to practise them again tomorrow.

Words You Learned

لال — laal — red. پیلا — peela — yellow. ہرا — hara — green. نیلا — neela — blue.

سفید — safaid — white. کالا — kaala — black. نارنجی — narangi — orange. گلابی — gulabi — pink.

Say each word out loud. Then look around your room — which colours can you name in Urdu?

Every colour has a name you can learn — and sharing the words makes the world feel brighter.

Conclusion

Mina still helps at the stall, and she still practises her colour words every morning.

Which Urdu colour will you say first today?

The End