



THE ADVENTURES OF PICCOLO

SETTING: a fairy-tale world and different fictional lands.

THEMES: friendship; kindred spirits; bravery; resistance.

GENRE: children's story; fantasy; adventure.

ADAPTATION: feature animation; feature fantasy film.

PRE-EXISTING ADAPTATION: The Adventures of Salamura (1979), Georgian Film Studio.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

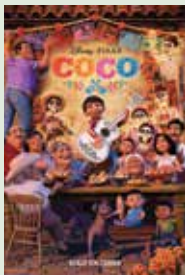
A heartwarming tale of two kindred spirits: the flute-playing ladybug shepherd, Piccolo, and the firefly shepherdess, Camellia. When Camellia disappears, Piccolo sets out on an epic journey to find her. He discovers her a prisoner in the fictional country of Lilliputia with its strange inhabitants and has to perform many deeds in order to save Camellia and show her a sunrise for the very first time.

MOVIE REFERENCES:

Kubo and the Two Strings (2016) an animated film by Travis Knight

Coco (2017) an animated film by Adrian Molina and Lee Unkrich

Bridge to Terabithia (2006) a film by Gábor Csupó



CHARACTERS:

Piccolo (Salamura) – the hero, a flute-playing ladybug shepherd

Camellia – the firefly shepherdess, Piccolo's friend

Prince Puttyhead – the fickle prince of Lilliputia

King Putia XV – King of Lilliputia who makes his lazy son's wishes come true

Alley-Oop – an old acrobat from the town of Maghrebi

Punch-n-Pummel – an old boxer from Maghrebi

Lilliputinorder – the first Vizier of King Putia XV

Nosegay – the daughter of Lilliputinorder who runs away from home for love

Hillario Buera – Nosegay's sweetheart, who lives with her in the Land of Poets

Rin-Tin-Tin – Lilliputia's blacksmith

Donald Doughmaker – the baker

Whirlwind – Lilliputinorder's bodyguard and the strongest man in Lilliputia

Raza – the prison guard in Lilliputia



BOOK SAMPLE

SUMMARY:

Salamura (flute-boy) aka Piccolo is a little ladybug shepherd, he can also play the flute beautifully. One day, his ladybugs go missing. Piccolo begins to look for them. Night falls while he searches and he comes across Camellia, a firefly shepherdess, who helps him find the lost ladybugs. They instantly spot that they are kindred spirits. Piccolo wants to return the favor so when Camellia tells him that she has never seen the sunrise, he offers her to take over her shepherding duties for one night and they will watch the sunrise together. Their plans are disrupted by spies from the country called Lilliputia who kidnap her. It turns out that Prince Puttyhead of Lilliputia had seen her in a dream and decided he wants to play with a firefly shepherdess. His father, the King, Putia XV, had ordered his men to capture Camellia and bring her to the court.

Piccolo goes on a journey to find her. First, he comes across Maghrebi, a town of tightrope-walking clowns and all kinds of circus performers. One of the residents, an old, crippled acrobat, Alley-Oop, takes him hostage to teach Piccolo how to do a quadruple flip. Although reluctant, Piccolo decides to stay and become Alley's apprentice. When he finally masters the move, he tries to escape, but he fails. Then one day Alley-Oop takes him to visit an old friend, the boxer, Punch-n-Pummel. Piccolo seems to have a strange effect on the lonely old residents of the town. Now, Punch-n-Pummel wants to keep him and train him to box, and that's what he does. But one evening when he comes home drunk, Piccolo outsmarts Punch-n-Pummel, knocks him down and escapes. The next place on the way to rescue Camellia is the Land of Poets. There Piccolo meets Madam Nosegay, daughter of the First Vizier of Lilliputia, Lilliputinorder. Nosegay has eloped there with her sweetheart, the poet, Hillario Buera. They tell Piccolo that Camellia is held in Lilliputia's royal court. This is when the real struggle begins. Camellia is imprisoned in a secret cell for offending Lilliputinorder. While playing hopscotch on the prince's orders, she had tripped and grabbed Lilliputinorder's giant nose. He was outraged. Piccolo goes directly to the first vizier to ask permission to see Camellia.

Lilliputinorder calls his private guard Whirlwind to get rid of him. Meanwhile, a demonstration is taking place to demand the release of an unlawfully detained footballer, Ron Around. Whirlwind is very strong and is able to fight off the demonstrators, but Piccolo, who is now trained in acrobatics and boxing, overcomes Whirlwind and then runs away. He finds friends and allies in Lilliputia and starts to plot with them.

Lilliputinorder is incensed that someone was able to defeat his bodyguard. He asks for a rematch and places announcements all around town promising prize money to Piccolo if he can beat Whirlwind again. But the ladybug shepherd has own plans. He befriends the blacksmith, Rin-Tin-Tin, and Hilario Buera's father, the baker, Donald Doughmaker. They decide to plan a

big carnival as a diversion. Piccolo performs in the disguise of a clown from Maghrebi, hoping to gain people's trust and find out exactly where Camellia's is. He wears a fake dough mustache that Donald has prepared. While doing a flip, the mustache drops, and his identity is revealed. At this point, Piccolo cannot escape the rematch with Whirlwind but hits the bodyguard so hard that he loses his mind and starts to recite disrespectful poems about the Vizier. Piccolo is himself imprisoned.

Alone in his prison cell, his only hope are the fireflies he has been keeping with him in a small box. He releases them and hopes they can find Camellia. The fireflies discover where their beloved shepherdess is being held and tell her about the rescue plan. They return to bring the good news back to Piccolo. The ladybug shepherd has come up with a plan when the blacksmith, Rin-Tin-Tin, came to him in prison to tell him almost everyone has been imprisoned by the Vizier. The chaos works in their favor, Piccolo manages to convince Whirlwind to join the resistance. Amid the confusion, Lilliputinorder hears his daughter Nosegay is back in Lilliputia and forgets all about the prisoners. Piccolo takes the keys from a prison guard, Raza, who had been strangled by Whirlwind. He flees, finds Camellia, and takes her away. Demonstrations continue in Lilliputia. It seems the people will at last prevail against the dictatorship.

Piccolo is finally able to keep his promise and shows Camellia the sunrise. They go back home together and live happily ever after.

A couple of years later, during their summer break, they tried to visit their tiny friends, but they could no longer find Lilliputia, "because, to find and see the Land of the Little People, one has to be little, too".

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Archil Sulakauri (1927-1997) is a Georgian writer and winner of the Shota Rustaveli State prize for children's literature. He graduated from Tbilisi State University with a degree in Georgian language and literature. By the age of nineteen, he was already a published poet. A. Sulakauri was head of the children's literature publishing house, Nakaduli, and editor-in-chief of the literary magazine, Mnatobi. He has written numerous poems, stories and novels, including such acclaimed works as *Holiday on My Street*, *Waves Strive for the Shore*, *The Goldfish* and many others. Archil Sulakauri achieved great success with Georgian readers with his fairy tales *The Magic Dress*, *The Blue Deer* and *The Stubborn Rabbits*. *The Adventures of Piccolo* was an instant hit and became one of the most acclaimed children's books in Georgia. He has also contributed to the Georgian film industry and written several popular film scripts.