

Excerpt from Chapter 12, pp. 211-212 of *The Sassafras Science Adventures Volume 2: Anatomy* – This is the section deals with reproduction.

Dr. Apple took a deep breath and began the explanation.

“Mrs. Kanthachai, all living things reproduce, or create offspring. This is how they pass characteristics from one generation to another. Males and females both have different reproductive organs, each of which contributes half of the chromosomes for a new human being. The reproductive organs in males produce sperms, and in females they produce eggs. Both the sperm and the egg are single cells that contain one set of twenty-three chromosomes. These cells meet to form a complete genetic package, which we call a zygote. This zygote then grows and develops over nine months inside the mother’s body in an organ called the uterus. The zygote starts out looking like a ball of tightly packed cells and ends up looking like a miniature version of an adult human. While the zygote is growing it is protected by the amniotic sac and is fed through the umbilical cord. Once this zygote, or tiny human, is delivered, it takes its first breath of air and begins supporting its life on its own.” Dr. Apple paused and smiled again. “Mrs. Kanthachai, you are going to have a baby.”

Mrs. Kanthachai looked shocked all over again but this time the shock was accompanied by a look of understanding.

“So being pregnant and having a zygote inside of me means that I am going to have a baby?” the Thai woman confirmed.

Dr. Apple, still smiling, nodded her head yes. Mrs. Kanthachai started gently crying. Dr. Apple reached a hand over to comfort her.

“I’m crying because I’m happy,” Mrs. Kanthachai beamed. “And my husband will be so happy too.”

“I will be your doctor throughout your pregnancy” Dr. Apple informed. “That is, the nine months or so that the baby is inside of you. I will also assist you with the delivery of your little one.”

“That sounds wonderful,” Mrs. Kanthachai replied thankfully.

“Newborn babies are completely dependent on their mothers,” Dr. Apple added. “They are fed only milk, they can’t move much on their own, and they sleep most of the time. But as they grow, their muscles, digestive system, and the rest of their body, grows and develops so that they are able to do more and more on their own. This whole process, from now through development requires a lot from the mother, to say the least, but there is no effort that is rewarded as much as motherhood. There is no other love like the one that you will have for your baby. Myself, the nurses and the rest of the staff, will be here to help you in any way that we can throughout the entire process.”

“Thank you!” Mrs. Kanthachai replied gratefully still crying tears of happiness.

Read more of the twin’s anatomy adventure at: <http://sassafrasscience.com/sassafras-science-novels/volume-2-anatomy/>