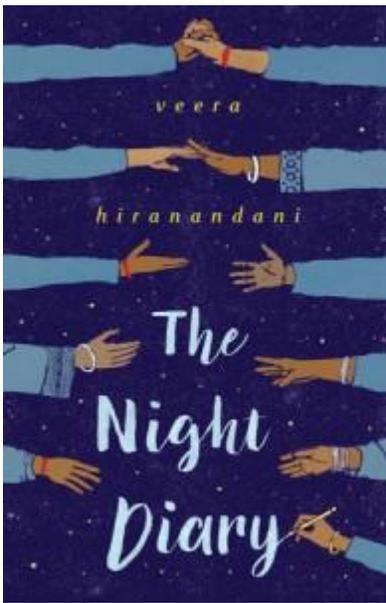


Discovery Box: *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani

Materials collected by

Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison

	<p>The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani (2018)</p> <p>Published by: Penguin Random House</p> <p>Suggested age for readers: grades 4-8, may be appropriate for readers up to grade 10</p> <p>Readers will be introduced to themes of identity and belonging, social justice, and social class through this refugee story.</p> <p>View our November 2020 Virtual Book Club Event here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bsklgner54&t=2s (Co-sponsored by the Institute for Regional and International Studies NRC and the Center for South Asia)</p>
<p>Synopsis (from publisher)</p>	<p>It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders.</p> <p>Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together.</p> <p>Told through Nisha's letters to her mother, <i>The Night Diary</i> is a heartfelt story of one girl's search for home, for her own identity...and for a hopeful future.</p>

<p>Classroom Resources from the Publisher</p>	<p>http://images.randomhouse.com/teachers_guides/9780735228511.pdf</p> <p>This educator guide includes discussion questions, suggested activities and assignment prompts, in addition to relevant links and additional topics for student exploration.</p>
<p>Classroom Resources Created by Educators and Authors</p>	<p>https://www.veerahiranandani.com/resources-for-educators.html</p> <p>Veera Hiranandani’s website contains links to several podcasts and interviews related to <i>The Night Diary</i> as well as additional writing prompts related to the novel.</p>
	<p>https://vimeo.com/showcase/7063614/video/601469720</p> <p>A short video with Veera Hiranandani, including a poetry exercise and writing prompt. Ideal for classroom use.</p>
	<p>https://vimeo.com/showcase/7063614/video/409367228</p> <p>A short video with Veera Hiranandani, including a free-writing prompt. Ideal for classroom use.</p>
	<p>https://www.theclassroombookshelf.com/2018/06/the-night-diary/</p> <p>A great blog post by Mary Ann Cappiello from School Library Journal, including a review of the book, several companion or paired reading suggestions, and ideas for group or classroom activities. Also includes several online resource links, such as The 1947 Partition Archive and other oral history websites.</p>
<p>Cultural Items and Concepts related to <i>The Night Diary</i></p>	
<p>Bangle bracelets</p> 	<p>The word Bangle is derived from the Hindi word ‘bungri’ means glass, and are traditional ornaments mostly worn by women all over South Asia in countries such as Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh besides India. Bangles have a traditional value and it is considered inauspicious to be bare-handed especially for a married woman for most Indian weddings. In North India, the bride generally wears glass bangles, with the bangles themselves symbolizing the Suhaag (love) for the husband and their prosperity in married life afterward.</p>

	<p>In certain parts of India, like Punjab for instance. Men too wear bangles as part of custom with the father of the bride presenting the groom with a gold ring, called a Kara (steel or iron bangle). The Punjabi woman on her wedding day wears a set of bangles called Chooda which is a set of white and red bangles with stonework. According to Sikh tradition, a woman is not supposed to buy the bangles she wears. Bangles are part of traditional Indian jewelry and thus they are still preferred at occasions such as marriages and festivals, though young girls still tend to wear them, and toddlers also sometimes wear bangles, often made of gold or silver. In Bengal and Odisha, married women wear white bangles made of shells. Bengali bangles made by fusing thin gold strips with handmade crafts on bronze bangle are very special to women in Bengal.</p> <p>In Indian culture, the colours of bangles also have their own significance in Indian tradition. For Indian women, bangles are not just mere ornaments. It is a tradition to wear bangles after marriage, symbolizing health, luck, and prosperity. Bangles are more than accessories for Indian women. Traditionally, they are more often than not, a part of their identity. Red signifies energy and prosperity, while green denotes good luck and fertility. Yellow bangles are meant for happiness, white is for new beginnings and orange is for success. Silver bangles denote strength and gold bangles are the ultimate symbol of fortune and prosperity.</p>
<p>Dupatta and Salwar Kameez</p> 	<p>A dupatta is a scarf typically worn with an outfit called a salwar kameez. A salwar kameez is a female garment that can be simple or fancy. The salwar are pants gathered at the bottom and the kameez is a long tunic shirt.</p>

Dhoti and Kurta



A dhoti is a male garment which consists of a piece of fabric wrapped around the waist that covers the legs. A kurta is a long tunic-style shirt. This image shows someone wearing a dhoti and kurta set.

Diwali (usually pronounced Divali)



Diwali is a festival of light that usually lasts five days between mid-October and mid-November. Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. The festival symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness. A wide variety of deities are associated with Diwali across the different faiths that observe the holiday. The main day of the festival is an official holiday in Fiji, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Rangoli are colorful patterns, created on the floor or tabletop using dry rice flour, colored sand, flower petals, or other materials. Rangoli are often seen during Hindu festivals and are most common during Diwali.

<p>Recipes connected with <i>The Night Diary</i></p>	
<p>Sai Bhaji – a vegetable and lentil curry</p> 	<p>Veera Hiranandani includes her family’s recipe for Sai Bhaji in the last few pages of <i>The Night Diary</i>. Sai bhaji can be served with rice (usually basmati rice) or with bread (usually roti or chapati, an unleavened flatbread similar in texture to a tortilla)</p>
<p>Kheer – rice pudding, flavored with warm spices and nuts</p> 	<p>Kheer is a sweet rice pudding, made by cooking basmati rice in milk. It is typically flavored with cardamom, saffron, and pistachios. Kheer can be made on the stovetop in a saucepan or with a pressure cooker.</p> <p>The recipe for the kheer pictured to the left is available here: https://www.vegrecipesofindia.com/rice-kheer-recipe-chawal-ki-kheer/</p>
<p>Paratha – flatbread</p> 	<p>Parathas are flatbreads, made with just a few ingredients. The flaky layers are created by folding the dough several times and then rolling it out before cooking.</p> <p>Parathas can also be stuffed with vegetables.</p> <p>A recipe for the plain parathas, like those shown to the left, can be found here: https://www.vegrecipesofindia.com/paratha-recipe-plain-paratha-recipe/</p>

Facts about India



Location: Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and Pakistan

Area Total: 3,287,590 sq km Area - comparative: slightly more than one-third the size of the US.

Climate: Varies from tropical monsoon in south to temperate in north.

Terrain: upland plain (Deccan Plateau) in south, flat to rolling plain along the Ganges, deserts in west, Himalayas in north.

Religions: Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.1% (2001 census).

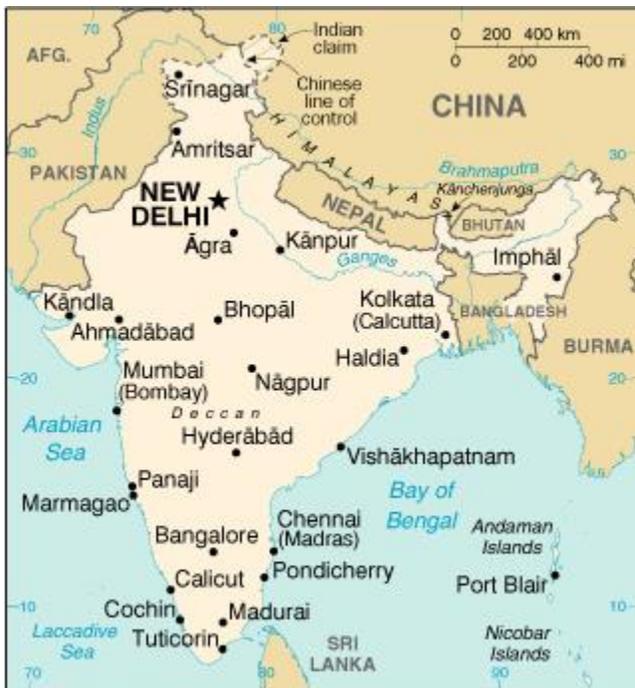
Languages: English enjoys associate status but is the most important language for national, political, and commercial communication; Hindi is the national language and primary tongue of 30% of the people; there are 14 other official languages: Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Malayalam, Kannada, Oriya, Punjabi, Assamese, Kashmiri, Sindhi, and Sanskrit; Hindustani is a popular variant of Hindi/Urdu spoken widely throughout northern India but is not an official language. India is the second most populous country in the world, with a population of just above one billion people. It is also one of the largest countries by land area and is also one of the largest world economies. India became an independent nation on August 15, 1947 after a long struggle for independence led by the Indian National Congress Party (also known as Congress). The first Prime Minister of India was Jawaharlal Nehru, who along with Mohandas K. Gandhi (known as "Mahatma") led the freedom struggle. India was a self-governing dominion within the British Empire from 1947 to 1950. The last viceroy, Lord Louis Mountbatten, acted as Governor-General of India, and was the queen's representative in the newly independent dominion. In 1950, India drafted a new constitution and became a republic within the British Commonwealth of Nations, an organization of former British colonies and dominions.

Where does the name "India" come from? A river that flowed through the region was known in Sanskrit as Sindhu. The Greeks were the first Europeans to visit the area and called this river the Sinthos. This was later changed by the Romans into Indus, the name which is now commonly used for this river. The region thus became known in Latin as India. The Persians and Arabs called the region Al-Hind after the same river. Originally, Al-Hind referred to both South and Southeast Asia, from present-day Pakistan down through Indonesia. The word Hindu came to describe the people who lived here and the religions they practiced. During Muslim rule of most of India, they referred to India as "Hindustan", the land of the Hindus. Ironically, the river which gave India its name now flows through Pakistan.

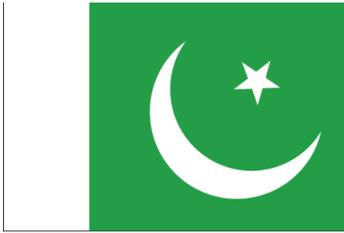
A new nation shaped by its past: Throughout India's history, many different groups have migrated and settled in its fertile plains, and also bringing their own cultures with them. Outside of India, many people speak about "Indian culture" as if it were only one thing, type of thought, and way of doing things. India's history is filled with interactions between different groups of people. All of them have contributed

something to the cultures found in India. India's cultures are also influenced by its geography, especially aspects like clothing style and food. In many cases, Indian restaurants have popularized the type of cuisine known as Mughlai, which comes from one region of northern India which has Muslim influence from Persia and Central Asia.

India's government is a parliamentary democracy based on the British system of government. In the United States, the President is both the head of state AND the head of government. Whereas in India, like the British model, these offices are divided among two persons. The Prime Minister is the head of government and the President of India is the head of state. India was one of the first nations in the world to have a woman as its leader. Indira Gandhi (no relation to Mahatma Gandhi) who was the daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, served as India's prime minister from 1966 to 1977 and again from 1980 to 1984. After independence, the Indian National Congress Party, was the most powerful of India's political parties and held most of the seats in India's parliament. Throughout fifty years of independence, many more political parties have sprung up in India representing and speaking for the interests of many different groups who felt that the Congress Party did not represent their views. Many of these new political parties are based on region and ethnicity, social class or caste, or religion.



Facts about Pakistan



Background: The separation in 1947 of British India into the Muslim state of Pakistan (with two sections West and East) and largely Hindu India was never satisfactorily resolved, and India and Pakistan fought two wars - in 1947-48 and 1965 - over the disputed Kashmir territory. A third war between these countries in 1971 - in which India capitalized on Islamabad's marginalization of Bengalis in Pakistani politics - resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. In response to Indian nuclear weapons testing, Pakistan conducted its own tests in 1998. The dispute over the state of Kashmir is ongoing, but discussions and confidence-building measures have led to decreased tensions since 2002.

Location: Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea, between India on the east and Iran and Afghanistan on the west and China in the north

Capital: Islamabad

Climate: mostly hot, dry desert; temperate in northwest; arctic in north

Area: 803,940 sq km Area - comparative: slightly less than twice the size of California Border countries: Afghanistan 2,430 km, China 523 km, India 2,912 km, Iran 909 km

Terrain: flat Indus plain in east; mountains in north and northwest; Balochistan plateau in west.

Religions: Islam, with two major sects: Shia and Sunni. Christianity and Hinduism are practiced by a small minority.

Ethnic Groups: Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtun (Pathan), Baloch, Muhajir (immigrants from India at the time of partition and their descendants)

Languages: Urdu, English, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtu, Baluchi, Seraiki, Hindko and other regional languages.

Foods: Rice and hand-baked flatbreads are staples. Meat is a regular part of the diet, procured in the Islamic (Zabeeha) way.

Government: Administrative Divisions: 4 provinces, 1 territory*, and 1 capital territory**; Balochistan, Federally Administered Tribal Areas*, Islamabad Capital Territory**, North-West Frontier Province, Punjab, Sindh.

Background, independence: The separation in 1947 of British India into the Muslim state of Pakistan (with two sections West and East) and largely Hindu India was never satisfactorily resolved. A third war between these countries in 1971 resulted in East Pakistan seceding and becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. A dispute over the state of Kashmir is ongoing. In response to Indian nuclear weapons testing, Pakistan conducted its own tests in 1998.

Note: the Pakistani-administered portion of the disputed Jammu and Kashmir region includes Azad Kashmir and the Northern Areas.

