

Amma's Sari
Discussion Guide
Grades Pre-K – 5th

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Begin by sharing about different types of clothing people wear in various cultures. Encourage students to share if they or someone they know wears something special that represents their culture or family traditions. Ask: Have you ever worn something that made you feel proud or special? How did others react to it?
- Since the *sari* is central to the story, provide some background on what a sari is, where it is commonly worn, and its significance. You could show pictures or even have a real sari to display.

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Can you share a time when you felt different from others? How did that make you feel?
- What can we learn about Shreya's mother through her stories about the sari?
- How do you think Shreya felt when people stared at her and her mother's sari? How would you feel in her place?
- What can we do when we see someone being treated unfairly because of their cultural background?
- What does this story teach us about the importance of cultural heritage?
- How does Shreya's understanding of her culture help her connect with her family and others?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Encourage students to think about their own family traditions or items that connect them to their heritage. On chart paper, help them brainstorm answers to these questions: How do your family's traditions make you feel? Why is it important to keep these traditions alive?
- **Extension:** In the story, the sari acts as a bridge between generations. Have students write a thank you note to a family member who has taught them about their culture or traditions. For younger students, suggest they draw a picture of a family gathering or a cultural celebration that they remember fondly.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.