



TEACHER GUIDE



Archie Celebrates Diwali

About the book

It's Diwali! Archie's favorite holiday. But what if her school friends don't enjoy it as much as she does?

Archana— Archie for short— loves her family's annual Diwali (*deh-vah-lee*) party. When a thunderstorm drenches the outside decorations and knocks out the power, Archie wonders if everything will be ruined. How can there be a festival of lights without any electricity?

“The book’s vivid illustrations utilize a bright color palette that perfectly matches the spirit of the holiday. The storyline is compelling, accurately reflecting the reality of children who celebrate religions outside the mainstream American culture, and it ends in an organic and believable way.”

—Kirkus Reviews

About the author



Mitali Banerjee Ruths grew up in Texas celebrating Hindu festivals with her family. She loves telling stories, eating cookies, knitting sweaters, and going for walks in beautiful landscapes. She now lives in Canada with her husband, three kids, and their dog Tux.

About the illustrator



Parwinder Singh has been drawing since childhood. He worked in animation before creating children's books. He loves exploring art styles and traveling to different places. He is the illustrator of *Let's Eat! Mealtime Around the World*.

About Diwali

Diwali, the festival of lights, comes from India and is now celebrated in many countries, such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia. The festival lasts five days, and the main celebration takes place on the very dark night of the new moon between October and November.

There are many mythical stories about the origins of Diwali, like ancient warriors defeating powerful demons, but at their heart, all the stories are about how good triumphs over evil. Over one BILLION people of different religions— Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists— celebrate this important religious and cultural holiday. Some traditions include dressing up, sharing sweets, and of course, enjoying lights, from traditional oil lamp diyas to tea lights, sparklers, and fireworks. It's a time to gather with family, friends, and community to reflect and renew our shared sense of hope and our bonds with each other.

Pre-Reading

- Study the front cover of the book. Describe what you see. Which character is Archie? How do you know?
- Study the back cover of the book. Describe what you see. How do you think Archie feels? How do you know?
- Predict what this story is going to be about.

Common Core Standards Alignment

Reading: CCRA-R.1, R.2, R.10

Language: CCRA-L.1, L.6

Writing: CCRA-W.2, W.4

Speaking & Listening: CCRA.SL.1, SL.4, SL.6

This year Archie invites a few friends from school to her family's big Diwali party.

Archie's family is busy in the kitchen.

A long time ago a king and queen saved the world from a whole bunch of demons.

It's getting late. Everyone gets ready to go.

Post-Reading

- Turn to the pages where Archie is decorating her house. Describe what you see. What is Archie doing? What time of day is it? How do you know?
- Is this is a regular day or special day? How do you know?

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- Turn to the pages where Archie and her family are in the kitchen. Look at the details. Describe what you see. Identify Archie's family members.
 - Explain how you think Archie feels. How do you know?
 - Discuss foods that you like to eat for holidays or special celebrations in your home.

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- Turn to the pages where Archie is telling her friends about Diwali. Describe what you see. Why do you think the illustrator drew fluffy white clouds behind Archie's head?
 - Study the characters' expressions. Describe how Seema, Paisley, Nora, and Virgil are reacting to Archie's story. Are they paying attention? How do you know?

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- Do you think Archie's friends had a good time? How do you know?

Other Activities

- Turn to the pages at the end of the book. Read "More About Archie's Favorite Holiday." Then find India and the other countries mentioned on a map.
- Read "The Story of the Ramayana." One major theme of the Ramayana is that no matter how powerful evil is, it will always be defeated by good. Do you know other stories that share this theme of good triumphing over evil?
- Using the glossary, look back through the book to find the decorations, food, clothing, and accessories in the illustrations
- Visit www.mitaliruths.com for more resources

