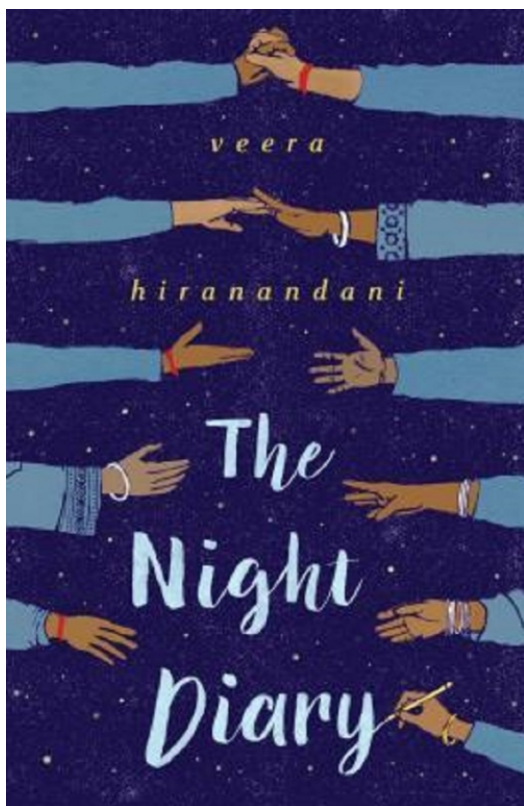


Night Diary, The

Hiranandani, V.



Twelve-year-old Nisha is a half-Muslim, half-Hindu girl who lives during the 1947 partition of India. As tensions grow in the area now known as Pakistan, her father decides it is too dangerous to remain in their home and they undertake a dangerous journey to cross the border to the newly-defined India where they must start over again in a new city. Nisha records her feelings and the struggles, hardships, and violence she experiences on this life-changing journey in a series of diary entries written to her dead mother. This novel, for grades 5-8, is suitable for a small group novel study, classroom or school library, and a Social Studies unit on global history and identity.

Collections ARC-BC Novel

Subject English Language Arts

Grades 5-8

Primary Identifier 9780735228511

Evaluation Date Mar 2019

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Resource Evaluation

CURRICULUM FIT

Does the resource support BC curriculum?

Extensively

This product supports the Core Competencies of the BC curriculum:

- Critical thinking
- Positive Personal and Cultural Identity
- Personal Awareness and Responsibility

This novel supports the Big Ideas of Language Arts at the intermediate level: Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens; Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world; and People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives. This novel could also fit with the Big Ideas of Social Studies 6: Systems of government vary in their respect for human rights and freedoms; Complex global problems require international cooperation to make difficult choices for the future.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE

This novel could be used as a novel study, for small group instruction, or as part of a cross-curricular unit with Social Studies focused on global history and identity. It would fit beautifully in a classroom or school library.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Gender Roles, Identity & Sexual Orientation:

Traditional gender roles are mentioned such as women cooking and fewer girls going to school than boys.

Multiculturalism:

This novel describes the split of British-ruled India into two countries divided along religious lines. Although the author describes this without bias, readers may bring their own bias into discussion.

Ability:

Nisha's Uncle Rashid has a cleft palate and uses a chalkboard to communicate. Her father, a doctor, explains how surgery for this issue would have been too expensive for many people. Nisha speaks very little throughout the book. She seems to find her voice with her loved ones such as her twin brother. As her traumatic journey continues, Nisha becomes unable to talk to people around her although she wants to.

Belief System:

The split of British rule in India divides the country based on religion. Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus are divided and must leave their homes and relocate based only by their religion. The novel does not advocate for one belief system over another, but readers may bring their own bias into discussions.

Socio Economic:

Nisha's family is rich at the beginning of the book. They have servants, a larger compound, gardens, and a bigger home. They lose their home and belongings when they are forced to flee their homes. The family is forced to start over in a new city with very little.

Violence:

While on her journey, Nisha witnesses a violent altercation on the train in which several people are killed. This profoundly impacts her ability to communicate both verbally and in the diary she keeps.

Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning?

Extensively

Social Considerations Comments:

The social considerations in this section support student learning and arise mostly from historical and cultural events that many students may not be familiar with. The story and the social considerations are described at an age-appropriate level. Teachers can provide the necessary

background information to put these events into context and make choices about considerations that may trigger specific students in their classrooms.

GENERAL CONTENT

Content

Is the resource engaging?

Extensively

Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?

Extensively

Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?

Extensively

Is the content timely and important for student broad understandings?

Extensively

Audience:

Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?

Extensively

Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?

Extensively

Is the level of detail appropriate?

Extensively

Is the content of particular interest to male students?

Extensively

Is the content of particular interest to female students?

Extensively

Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?

Extensively

This novel beautifully tells the story of an historical event that many Canadian students are likely not familiar with in an age-appropriate way. Although the story is told through a series of diary entries that Nisha, the female protagonist, writes to her deceased mother, students will connect with both Nisha and her twin brother Amil as they embark on a life-changing journey that takes them through violence and hardship. The content of this novel is delivered in a way that makes it accessible to readers who may not have the historical context or awareness of the events that took place. While the reading level and content cannot be differentiated, teachers can provide background knowledge.

TECHNICAL DESIGN

Does the resource make effective use of the medium?

Extensively

Is the resource easy to use?

Extensively

Is the use of font, text size and presentation uniform?

Extensively

Are extraneous elements/illustrations kept to a minimum?

Extensively

This novel is 264 pages, divided into short journal entries, which makes the novel easily readable. The text and font are uniform and each journal entry is separated by a date. This hardcover book has a map printed inside, depicting Nisha's journey as well as the partition boarder.

PRINT NOVEL

Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?

Extensively

Does the text broaden students' experiences and understanding?

Extensively

To what degree is this text stylistically rich?

Extensively

Plot description:

The Night Diary describes a family's experience during the 1947 Partition of India. The story is told in the form of diary entries written by the main character, Nisha, to her deceased mother. As tensions grow between Muslims and Hindus, Nisha's Papa decides it is too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan. Nisha and her family embark on a long, dangerous journey to cross the partition border to "the new India". As she bears witness to the struggles, hardships, and violence along her life-changing journey, she uses her journal entries as her voice to record her feelings and experiences.

Related Comments:

The novel is written from the point of view of Nisha, a half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old girl. The story offers a look at the Partition of India through eyes of a child. The richly developed characters allow readers to grasp the historical significance of this time without religious bias.

Genre:

Historical

Literary Highlights:

- Rich Characterization

- Well-developed themes
- Point of view

Type:

Novel

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**Readability:**

- At intended grade level(s)

The author's note at the end of this novel provides background knowledge and context for this story. There is also a glossary that provides definitions for some commonly used Indian words in the story. A 2019 Newbery Honor Book, www.readbrightly.com features this book as a book club for tweens and includes discussion questions. www.penguinrandomhouse.com provides a digital teacher's guide for this novel.

Resource URL

<https://focusedresources.ca/en/k-12-evaluated-resource-collection/night-diary>