



The Night Diary

by Veera Hiranandani

The Night Diary is ripe for in-depth conversations about world history and its connection to current events. It is also a rich character study of two children living in a different time period yet struggling with some issues familiar to many modern-day kids. Explore these prompts to kick off your discussion of *The Night Diary*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it easier for Nisha to share her thoughts and feelings through a diary than through talking? Do you identify with this? How or how not?
2. Describe Nisha and Amil's life in Mirpur Khas. How is this similar to your daily routine?
3. Food and cooking play a critical role in this story. How does food bring people together? Why is cooking so meaningful to Nisha? What activity brings you joy and peace like cooking brings her?
4. Discuss the journey that Nisha and her family made to Rashid Uncle's house then on to India. What seemed like the hardest parts to you? Put yourselves in Nisha's shoes and consider how you would act on this journey.
5. Nisha asks, "Is it the brain that makes me quiet sometimes, that makes Amil see letters every which way? Is it the brain that makes people love and hate? Or is it the heart?" Discuss what this quote means to you.
6. Why is Nisha upset when she learns that she has an aunt and uncle on her mother's side of the family that she never knew about? How does she react to meeting Rashid Uncle? How is Nisha similar to and different from him?
7. What is the relationship between Nisha and Amil like? How do they support one another? Does their relationship change during the story?
8. Why is it difficult for Nisha to make friends? Why was she able to connect with Hafa so easily? How does the dramatic ending to that friendship impact Nisha?
9. Describe the relationship that Nisha and Amil have with Papa and how he reacts to each of them before, during, and after their journey. Do you think Papa might have been different if their mother was still alive?
10. The author uses beautiful figurative language like similes and metaphors to tell this story. Find a few of your favorite examples. How can an author's writing style and craft help to tell important stories like this one?