

A Sea of Saris

Teaching Notes



Synopsis

It's Diwali, and Jiaan and Avya are helping their parents get ready for a big party. Follow Jiaan and Avya as they learn about their culture, heritage and religion.

About the Authors

From the spiritual grounding of her Bombay childhood, where Sunday temple visits with her grandparents instilled a deep appreciation for Hindu culture, to the dynamic, ever-changing world of London fashion, Anusuya Hinduja has embraced a life of transformation. She first established her brand, Ananya, and has now evolved to create AN-YI, an innovative formula fashion brand. As a mother navigating the unique challenges of raising sons aged 29 and 6, she understands the importance of passing down cultural and spiritual values. Now, through her children's books, she's sharing the magic of her Hindu culture and heritage with young readers. Anusuya can be contacted via email: anu@seriesoflifetales.com

Sonam Fabiani's story is one of a cultural explorer. From her Indian roots to her upbringing across London, Nigeria and Dubai, she has embraced a life of diverse experiences. This unique journey sparked a deep dive into her own heritage and identity. Eight years in the fast-paced world of fashion shaped her professionally, but it's in Madrid, as a mother to two young daughters, that she truly discovers her heart's home. Sonam can be contacted via email: sonam@seriesoflifetales.com

Anusuya and Sonam can be contacted via Instagram @seriesoflifetales and their website: seriesoflifetales.co.uk

About the Illustrator

Nilesh Mistry was born in Mumbai, India, and studied at Harrow and Central St Martin's Schools of Art. His Indian heritage has always been a great source of inspiration to him. His colourful and imaginative art can be seen in his illustrations for books by Michael Morpurgo, Jane Yolen, Jatinder Verma and many others. He lives in London. Nilesh can be contacted via his website: www.nileshmistryart.com

Educational Applicability

A Sea of Saris is a delightful story following siblings Jiaan and Avya as they help their parents get ready for a Diwali party. Full of information about Hindi culture, heritage and religion (including a glossary on the inside back cover), we learn about it through the eyes of the two children. This is a great starting point to discuss the magic of Diwali and Indian traditions. This is the first book in the *Series of Life Tales*, which follows the adventures of Jiaan and Avya as they learn about their culture, heritage and religion.



Written by

Anusuya Hinduja & Sonam Fabiani

Illustrated by

Nilesh Mistry

Published by

Little Steps Publishing



Discussion Topics

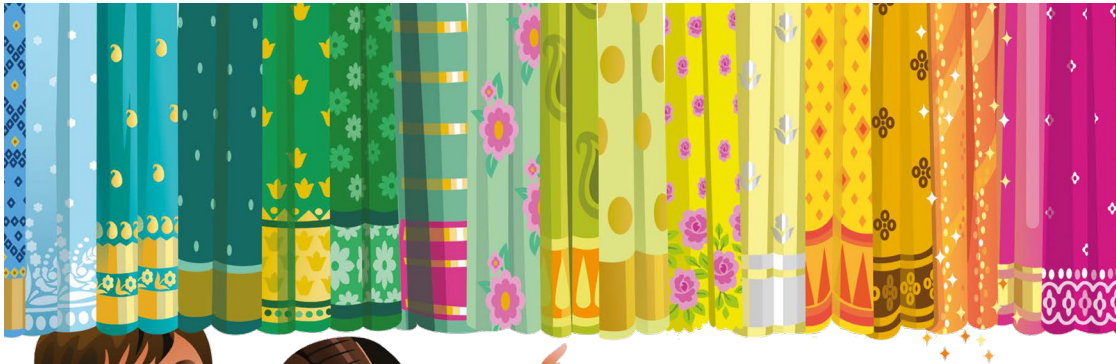
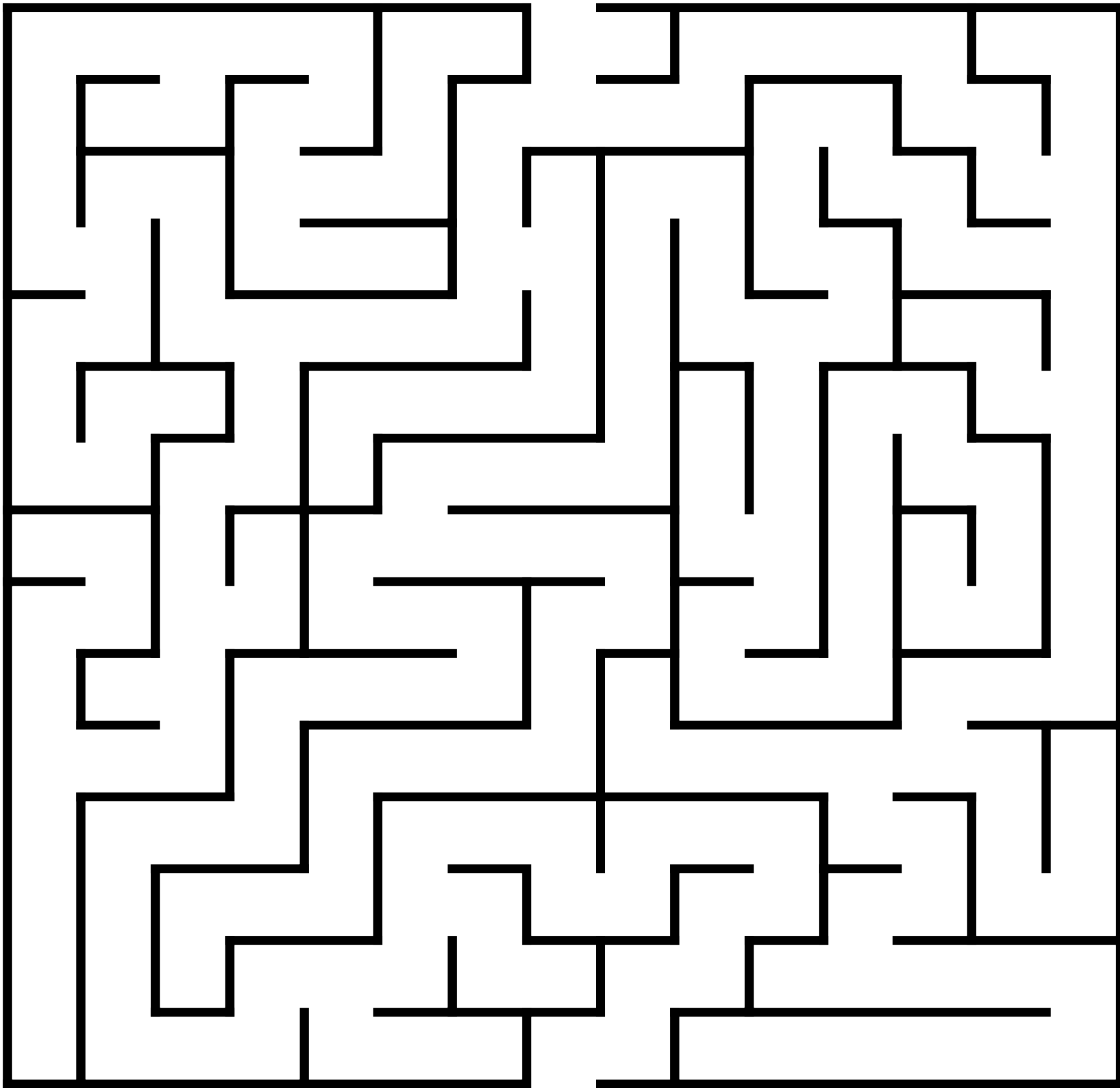
Before, during and after reading the book

1. Introduce A Sea of Saris to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about.
2. Ask the children what they know about India and Hindu traditions?
3. Discuss Diwali. Why is this festival so important?
4. Papa is wearing a kurta and Mama is wearing a sari for the Diwali party. Describe these outfits.
5. What does Avya think Mama looks like in her sari?
6. What is a raja and a rani?
7. What do Avya and Jiaan find in Mama's cupboard? How many different colours can you see?
8. What happens when Avya tries to reach for a sari? The words – SLIP, SLIDE, SWISH, PLOP – are examples of onomatopoeias? As are CRASH and THUMP. Can you think of any others?
9. How does Mama help Avya with her sari? What does she tell Avya?
10. What is a bindi?
11. What jewellery does Mama wear?
12. What is a kala tikka?
13. After reading the book, ask them what did they think of the story? Which was their favourite part and why?

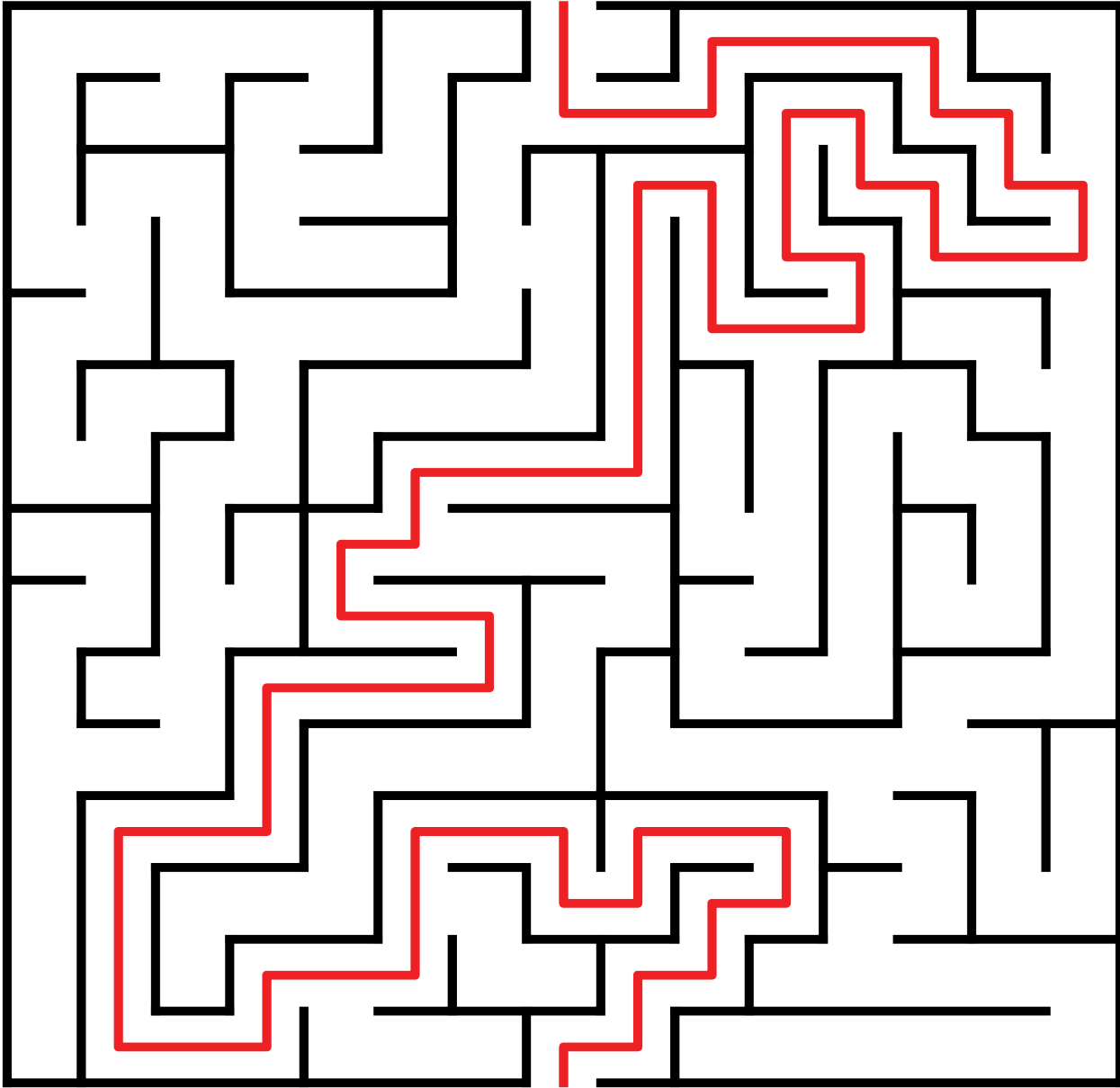


A-MAZE-ING SARI

Can you help Avya find her perfect sari?



SOLUTION TO A-MAZE-ING SARI



WORDSEARCH

Find all the words below in the *A Sea of Saris* wordsearch

Name:

Class:

Date:

word search

A SEA OF SARIS

S K A L A T I K K A N
P D F I R E W O R K S
E M S S T A D L A I T
A J E I U H A L B N K
Y E I B S L D L E U E
A V Y A L O I R R R Z
I S P L A N W T C I S
H A E L G N A B D O R
P C F S N M L N V O O
J T G S A R I E I N O
G Y N M M B E O E P U



AVYA
BANGLE
BINDI
DADI
DIWALI

FIREWORKS
JIAAN
KALATIKKA
KURTA
MAMA

MANGALSUTRA
NANI
PAPA
SARI
SIBLINGS



Answer Sheet

word search

A SEA OF SARIS

S K A L A T I K K A N
P D F I R E W O R K S
E M S S T A D L A I T
A J E I U H A L B N K
Y E I B S L D L E U E
A V Y A L O I R R R Z
I S P L A N W T C I S
H A E L G N A B D O R
P C F S N M L N V O O
J T G S A R I E I N O
G Y N M M B E O E P U



AVYA
BANGLE
BINDI
DADI
DIWALI

FIREWORKS
JIAAN
KALATIKKA
KURTA
MAMA

MANGALSUTRA
NANI
PAPA
SARI
SIBLINGS



DESIGN A SARI

Design and colour in a picture of you in a sari. What jewellery will you add to the outfit? Use inspiration from the book.



WRITING ACTIVITY

Mama and Papa are getting ready for the Diwali party. Find out about this important Hindu festival and write about it in the space below.



A large rectangular area with horizontal dotted lines for writing.



An illustration of two children, a girl and a boy, sitting inside a tent. The tent is decorated with stars and stripes. The girl is wearing a yellow shirt and the boy is wearing a green shirt. They are looking out of the tent towards a window. Outside the window, there are colorful fireworks exploding in a dark night sky. The scene is framed by a large, stylized moon and stars.

Please share your work with us @littlestepspublishinguk

Little
Steps
PUBLISHING

SERIES OF
Life Tales