



The Booklist Project



Focus: Cultural Specific Book List
for Indian ELLS

Developed by: Christine Stone
FALL 2012

Cultural Specific Book List for Indian ELLs

Grades K-6



Christine Stone

Ravishankar, Anushka. (2012). *The rumor*.

Ontario: Tundra Books.

[ISBN: 978-1770492806].

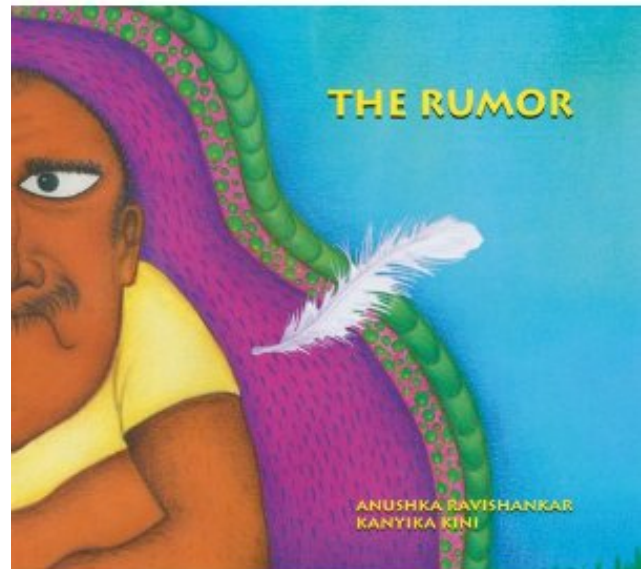
Hardcover

32 Pages

Reading Level: 3.6

Interest Level: Ages 4-8

WIDA Level: Expanding

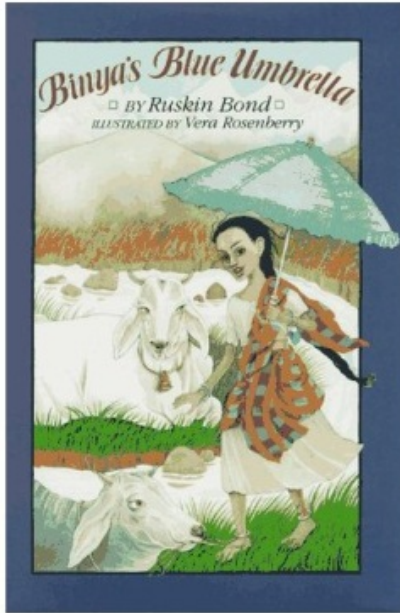


In this story, the people living in the village of Baddbaddpur love to gossip and tell tall tales. In this unique Indian version of “the broken telephone”, the dangers of gossip come to life. Pandurang, an old and unfriendly man, coughs up a feather. As the story of his feather is passed on to the next person, it becomes more and more exaggerated. ELLs may relate to the Indian culture in this book, and may have even heard of this tale before.

Additional Resources

A link to additional books written by Anushka Ravishankar

<http://www.jacketflap.com/anushka-ravishankar/11042>



Bond, Ruskin. (1995). *Binya's blue umbrella*.

Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

[ISBN: 978-1563971358].

Hardcover

72 Pages

Reading Level: 5.9

Interest Level: Grades 3-5

WIDA Level: Bridging/Reaching

This story is set in the Himalayan Mountains. Binya is out walking one day and spots a beautiful, blue umbrella that she is quickly drawn to. She trades her tiger claw necklace for it and is soon the envy of the people in town. Binya's discovery of this umbrella leads to many chain reactions as well as discoveries in her personal relationships. This book offers an authentic look into rural Indian life. The occasional black and white illustrations enhance the text. ELLs may relate to the values and culture of the people living in modern –day Indian villages.

Additional Resources

The Blue Umbrella (2005) is the Indian film based on Ruskin Bond's novel.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0457802/>

Jaffrey, Madhur. (2001). Robi dobi: the marvelous adventures of an Indian elephant.
New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers.
[ISBN: 978-1862051607].

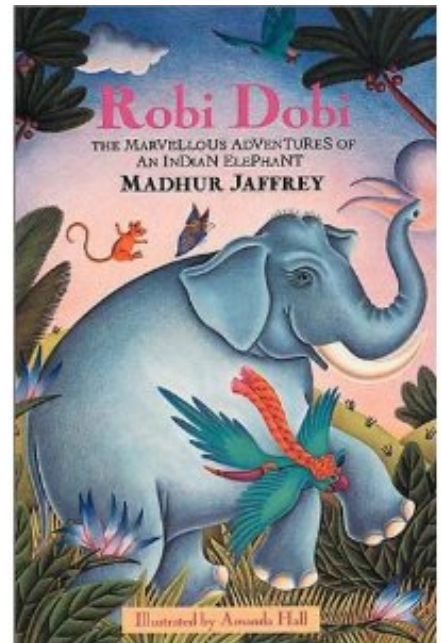
Hardcover and Paperback

76 Pages

Reading Level: Grades 3 to 4

Interest Level: Ages 9-12

WIDA Level: Bridging/Reaching



Robi Dobi, an Indian elephant, loves adventure. Whenever he comes across a stranger in need, he is there to save the day. Robi helps rescue a variety of animals in the jungle, including an orange mouse, a dancing butterfly, and a parrot princess. This story is filled with humor and clever adventures that will appeal to young readers. There is a strong focus on friendship and problem solving. The author uses rich and illustrative language. Indian ELLs may appreciate the Indian cultural references and can make connections throughout the text.

Whitaker, Zai. (2006). *Kali and the rat snake*.
California: Kane/Miller Book Publishers.
[ISBN: 978-1933605104].

Hardcover and Paperback

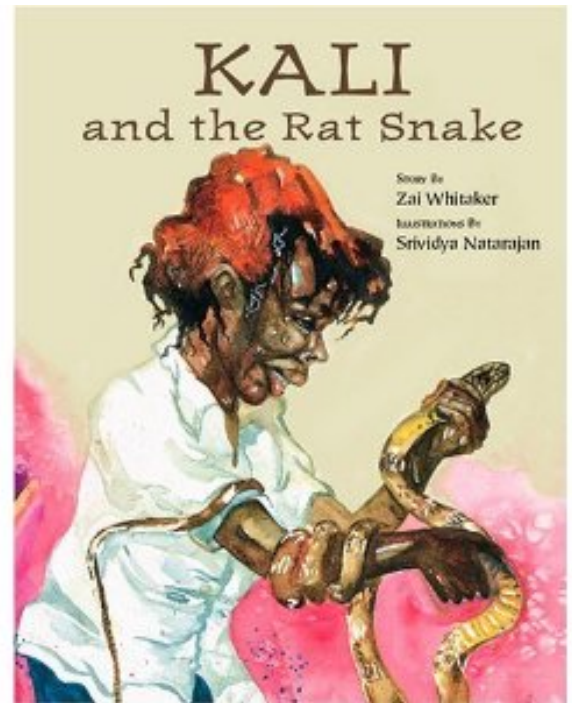
32 Pages

Reading Level: Grades 2 to 3, Guided Reading

Level M

Interest Level: Ages 9-12

WIDA Level: Expanding/Bridging



This story takes place in modern-day Southern India. Kali, an Irula boy, has trouble fitting in at school. When a rat snake threatens the safety of the students and teacher, Kali jumps into action. His father, the best snake hunter in the region, has taught him all of his tricks. Kali catches the snake and saves the day, winning the respect of his classmates. This is an ideal book for teaching about acceptance. It is also filled with many cultural details that ELLs can make connections to.

Additional Resources

Link to author's biography and other books

<http://youngindiabooks.com/author/zai-whitaker>

Krishnaswami, Uma. (2008). *The happiest tree:*

a yoga story. New York, NY:

Lee & Low Books Inc.

[ISBN: 978-1600603600].

Hardcover and Paperback

32 Pages

Reading Level: 3.1

Interest Level: Ages 4-8

WIDA Level: Expanding



Meena is a clumsy American girl of Indian descent. She is excited about her class play that is coming up, but because she is always stumbling or knocking things over, she doesn't want to audition for a role in the play. While shopping at an Indian grocery store with her mother, Meena notices a children's yoga class in session. Her aunt encourages her to sign up, and she hesitantly agrees. Meena learns new breathing techniques that help her successfully play the role of a tree in the play. Indian culture is well-integrated, including a few Indian terms that ELLs may be familiar with. Yoga techniques are skillfully woven into the narrative.

Additional Resources

A classroom guide for teachers

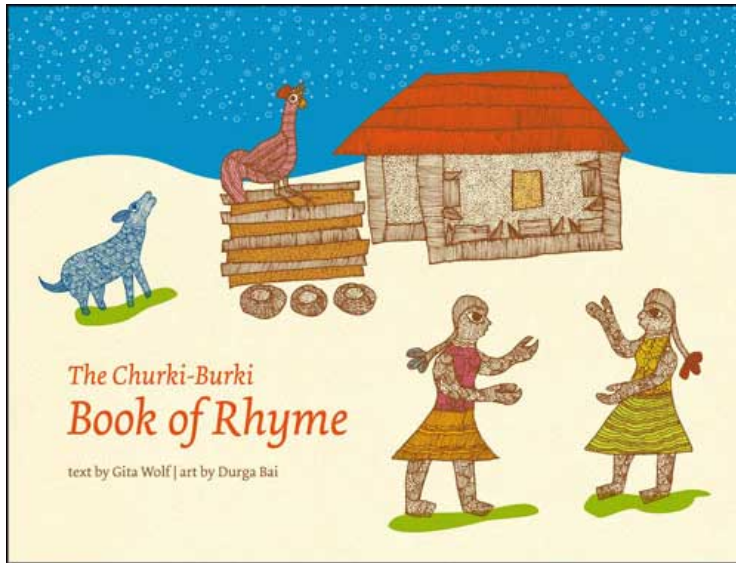
http://www.leeandlow.com/p/happiesttree_tg.mhtml

Author's Website

<http://www.umakrishnaswami.com/>

Article about the benefits of using yoga in the classroom

<http://kidsyogaguide.com/2011/02/22/yoga-in-the-classroom-a-new-kind-of-education/>



Wolf, Gita. (2010). *The churki-burki book of rhyme.*

India: Tara Books.

[ISBN: 978-9380340067].

Hardcover

24 Pages

Reading Level: Not Available –

2nd grade when

computed using the Fry formula.

Interest Level: Ages 4-8

WIDA Level: High Developing/Expanding

In a central Indian village, two sisters, Churki and Burki, enjoy helping their parents and playing together. They make up rhymes about traditional village life. ELLs may be able to relate to some of the animals and foods that are found in the girls' rhymes. These rhymes may be easily repeated and picked up by readers. The images are beautiful Gond folk style line drawings that are well-known in central India.

Additional Resources

Hindi Nursery Rhymes

http://www.indif.com/kids/hindi_rhymes/nursery_rhymes.aspx

Indian Children's Songs and Rhymes

<http://www.mamalisa.com/?p=45&t=ec&c=18>

Rao, S. & Wolf, G. (2009). *The flight of the mermaid*. India: Tara Books.

[ISBN: 978-8190675604].

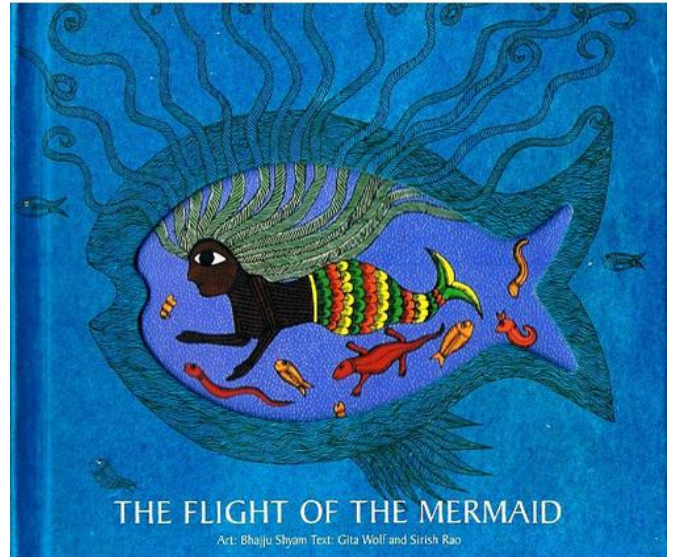
Hardcover

32 Pages

Reading Level: Not available –
7th grade when computed using
the Fry formula.

Interest Level: Ages 7-10

WIDA Level: Expanding/Bridging



This is a retelling of the classic fairytale “The Little Mermaid” by Hans Christian Andersen. It is both a coming of age tale and the story of a journey. This is a wonderful picture book with each page letter-pressed on thick-grain paper. The illustrations are done in the unique Gond tribal style notorious to India. Indian ELLs may enjoy reading this adaption of an American fairytale.

Additional Resources

Indian Fairytales

http://www.bharatadesam.com/literature/indian_fairy_tales/indian_fairy_tales.php

<http://www.authorama.com/indian-fairy-tales-28.html>

Das, Prodeepta. (2004). *I is for India*.

London: Frances Lincoln Limited.

[ISBN: 978-1845073206].

Hardcover and Paperback

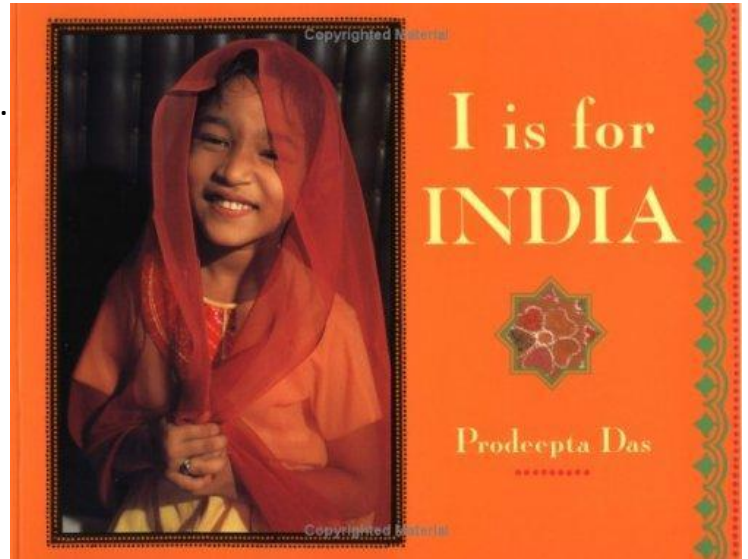
32 Pages

Reading Level: Designed for grades

Pre-K to 3

Interest Level: Ages 4-8

WIDA Level: Expanding



Using an A-Z format, the author introduces young readers to life in India. This book is a celebration of India's diversity. ELLs that choose this book will be introduced to some of the different ancient and modern customs of India as well as day-to-day life in the cities and villages. Indian ELLs may be able to make connections to their own families and customs.

Additional Resources

Author's Website

<http://www.prodeeptadas.com/index.htm>

Gajadin, C. & Tagore, R. (1992). *Amal and the letter from the king*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.
[ISBN: 978-1563971204].

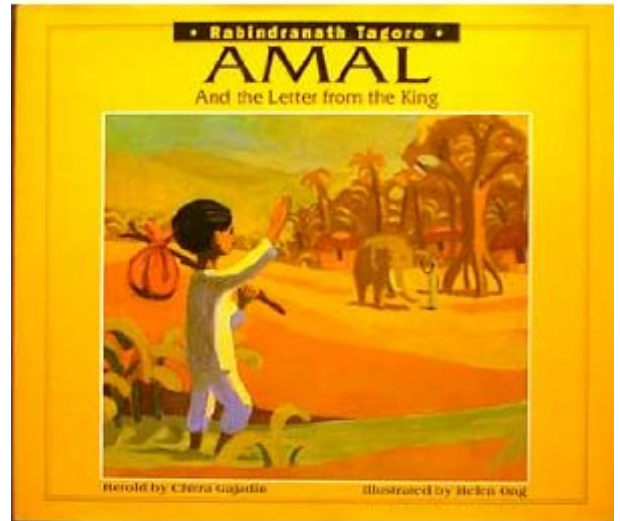
Hardcover

44 Pages

Reading Level: 3.6

Interest Level: Ages 4-8

WIDA Level: Expanding



Adapted from a play written by Rabindranath Tagore, this story is about a boy who views the world from his window. In a village in India, Amal dreams of traveling to far places or simply visiting a distant village. Because of his poor health, Amal is unable to leave his home, but continues to dream and remain optimistic. Much of the text is written in dialogue and may make a great read aloud. The illustrations are bold and beautiful paintings that will appear to young readers. ELLs may be able to make connections to Indian culture.

Makhijani, Pooja. (2007). *Mama's saris*.

New York, NY:

Little, Brown and Company.

[ISBN: 978-0316011051].

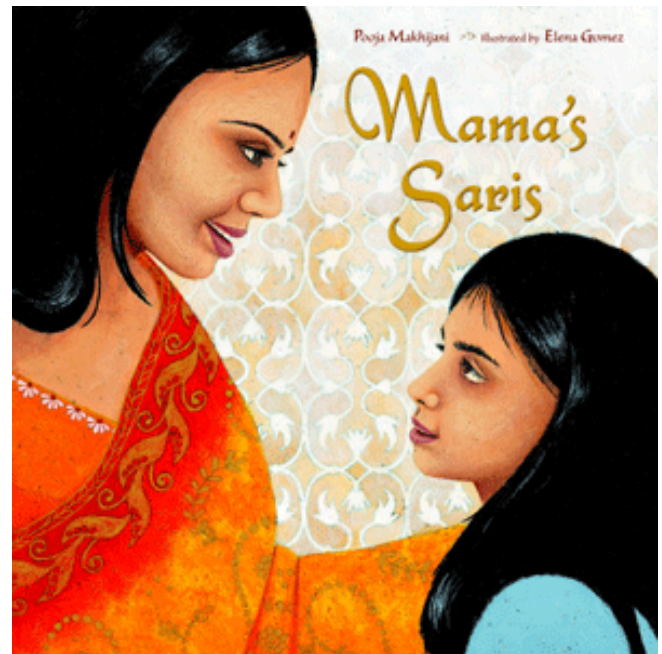
Hardcover

32 Pages

Reading Level: 3.3, Lexile 820

Interest Level: K-3

WIDA Level: Late Developing/ Expanding



On her seventh birthday, a young Indian girl watches her mother select a sari to wear for her birthday party. The girl wants to feel special and wear a sari too. Her mother agrees and the young girl is then dressed in a beautiful, blue sari. This picture book celebrates the beauty of saris and the important role they play in Indian families. This is also a great tale about growing up and mother-daughter relationships. Indian ELLs may be able to relate to the cultural importance of the sari.

Additional Resources

Teacher's Guide

<http://www.poojamakhijani.com/mamassaristg.html>

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The Booklist Project

A Project of the
M.Ed. In TESL Program,



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