

LITTLE READS: CONVERSATION STARTERS

GET YOUR KIDS TALKING

Your whole family can Big Read with us thanks to our Little Read books. Just like *The Namesake*, these books address themes of finding yourself in a new place and uncovering your own identity. Help your kids join the discussion using these conversation starters.

- **Read with your kids.** Whether you read aloud together or read the book separately, it's good practice to read what your kids are reading.
- **Make it fun.** Keep it casual by asking questions while you read. It shouldn't feel like a pop quiz for your kids.
- **You know your kids best.** Ask the questions that you think will really get your kids talking. Or ask your own questions based on your kids' interests.
- **Pause.** Be sure to give your kids time to think and answer before you jump in with your own answer to every question.

I'M NEW HERE (Recommended for ages 5-8)

- Can you think of a time you were new? How did it feel? Did you have any worries?
- Why do you think people move from one country to another?
- How do you think it feels to move from your home?
- Is it different for kids when they move (instead of grown-ups)? Why?
- How does it feel when people don't understand you?
- How can you make someone feel welcome?
- Are there things you can do with someone else even if you don't speak the same language?
- What are some important things people should know when they first come to our community?
- Have you ever felt different? What was it like?
- When you are new, how do you wish someone would welcome you?



NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

SAVE ME A SEAT (Recommended for ages 8-12)

- How do you see Ravi change from the beginning to the end of the book?
- Is it hard to make friends at a new school?
- Is it harder to make friends if you are from another country or area?
- What should Ravi and Joe do about Dillon, the bully?
- Choose any one scene from the book and describe it from each of the boys' point of view. How are their perceptions different?
- Describe an incident of bullying from each of their viewpoints.

WHEN DIMPLE MET RISHI (Recommended for teens)

- The concept of arranged marriage is one that often raises eyebrows and brings about a wealth of opinions, particularly in those who are not part of a culture in which it is a common practice. What did you think of the author's treatment of the practice in this novel?
- How does this story compare to other Teen/YA coming-of-age stories?
- What did you think of the narrative style and alternating perspectives of the book?
- If you have read *The Namesake*, what similarities and differences are there between Dimple, Rishi, and Gogol?
- What are your opinions of the main characters Dimple and Rishi?
- The iced coffee scene is, in a word, polarizing among readers. What was your take? Overreaction or justified?
- What does Jenny Lindt represent? What about Leo Tilden?
- What is the significance of kajaal in the story?
- What quotes/scenes stood out to you?
- Were you satisfied with the ending? What futures do you predict for Dimple and Rishi?



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