

A THOUSAND QUESTIONS BOOK CLUB



ISBN: 978-0062943200

Publisher: Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins

Release Date: October 6, 2020

WELCOME TO THE BOOK CLUB

Watch a short welcome video by author Saadia Faruqi at this link: <https://youtu.be/zNuV-Dz2zxM>

PREPARING FOR THE BOOK CLUB

- Learn more about Pakistan by visiting this link: <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/pakistan-facts.html>
- Virtually visit tourist attractions in Karachi, including a few that Mimi and Sakina visit in the book: <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/pakistan/articles/20-must-visit-attractions-in-karachi-pakistan/>
- Listen to some Urdu songs from the popular YouTube channel Coke Studio: <https://www.youtube.com/c/cokestudio/videos>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Which main character resonates more with you, Mimi or Sakina? Why?
- Who was your favorite secondary character? What did you like best about them?
- Sakina is very different from an American girl because she works for a living, and helps support her family. What did you learn about privilege and poverty after reading about Sakina's life, and how did this help you reassess your own?
- Mimi isn't truly connected with her heritage until she arrives in Pakistan. What are some ways she forms those connections during her summer vacation? How do her grandparents help in this regard?

- What role does food play in bringing the two girls closer together? How does the author use food as a way to build understanding and connection with readers?
- Mimi and her mother have always been very close. How does this visit to Pakistan affect the way Mimi views her mother? Do you think things will change between them when they go back to Houston?
- This is ultimately a story of an unlikely friendship with a rocky start. What did you learn about making friends from Mimi and Sakina? What are some ways you can reach out to someone very different from you?
- There is an election in the background of the story. How is it similar to election campaigns in the U.S. and how is it different?
- There are several unanswered questions at the end of the book. Will Mimi and her father continue to meet and grow closer together when they get back to the U.S.? Will Mimi ever see Sakina again? How will Sakina's family manage if Sakina goes to school? If you were the author, how would you continue the story after the last page?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Mimi visits her grandparents in Pakistan for the first time. Have you ever visited family members in another country or city, and found the experience very different from your own? What did you find different? How did you cope with the changes?
- Mimi and Sakina both have big dreams that seem impossible to achieve. Yet by working together, they achieve their dreams. Do you have a dream that seems impossible, and how do you think you could achieve it?
- Mimi and Sakina are as different from each other as night and day. Still, they make an effort to get to know each other, and learn each other's languages. Have you ever tried to learn another language? How difficult was it? What did you learn from the experience?
- Mimi's mother is an artist, and her father is a journalist. Sakina's father is a chef. What are some possible careers you could see yourself in?

ACTIVITIES

Make a Journal:

In the book, Mimi writes to her father in a secret journal. Watch as author Saadia Faruqi makes a home-made journal using art materials you can easily obtain:

https://youtu.be/Kd9RX1wjmIc?list=PLdX_H5TG4SUN9s0TzrsOewdnIGo3nYI

Cook Bun Kabab at Home:

In the book, Sakina takes Mimi to eat a special kind of Karachi street food called bun kabab, which is spicy vegetarian burger. Follow this recipe and try a fusion style of bun kabab at home:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhPLfrrH_I

Make a Funny T-Shirt:

Mimi loves wearing t-shirts with funny messages. Think of a funny message for your own t-shirt. Then use the following template to create your shirt:



Draw and Design Your Own Rickshaw:

Mimi and her mother travel to the mall by a special type of public transport called a rickshaw. Do some research on the rickshaw, then draw and color your own. Here's an image to get you started:



Reuters/Adrees Latif

Take the Quiz:

See how many questions about Pakistan you can answer in this quiz:

<https://www.cfr.org/quiz/see-how-much-you-know-about-pakistan>

Share your Opinions:

Did you like this book? Would you like to tell others about it? Reviews are a great way to spread the word about your favorite books, so head over to Goodreads, Amazon or any other platform you prefer to share your thoughts. If you'd like to contact the author, please visit

www.saadiafaruqi.com.