

Annotated Bibliography

South Asian Lending Library

Aktar, Nasreen and Enebor Attard. *Samira's Eid*. London: Mantra, 1999.

Today is the festival of Eid. The first sighting of the new moon starts a day of celebration for Samira and her family. The Ramadan fast is over and now it is time for prayers and presents. But what is the story that the surprise visitor will tell? The words and illustrations of this book bring the spirit of this Islamic festival to life. Urdu and English. Ages 6-9

Banting, Erinn. *Afghanistan: The Land*. New York: Crabtree Publishing, 2003.

--- *Afghanistan: The People*. New York: Crabtree Publishing, 2003.

--- *Afghanistan: The Culture*. New York: Crabtree Publishing, 2003.

This series of books discusses the geography, natural resources and wildlife of Afghanistan, the diverse culture and people. Ages 7-12

Buller, Laura. *A Faith Like Mine: A Celebration of the World's Religions – Seen through the Eyes of Children*. New York: DK Publishing, 2005. This book explores the world's religions through the experiences of children, providing fascinating information about their beliefs, places of worship, sacred texts, festivals, and holy days. Using simple language and colorful photographs, this book shows how humanity's faiths are different – and how they are the same. Ages 7-12

English, Karen. *Nadia's Hands*. Honesdale, Pennsylvania: Boyds Mills Press, 1999.

Nadia has been chosen to be the flower girl in her aunt's traditional Pakistani wedding. Her hands are decorated for the occasion with beautiful and intricate henna designs. When her hands are done, she worries what her classmates will say. This is a story of a Pakistani-American girl who comes to an understanding of the rich culture she has inherited. Ages 7-12

Gilmore, Rachna. *Lights for Gita*. Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House Publishers, 1994.

Recently immigrated from India, Gita is looking forward to celebrating her favorite holiday, Divali, a festival of lights, but things are so different in her new home that she wonders if she will ever adjust. Ages 5-9

Gregory, Manju and David Anstey. *Jill and the Beanstalk*. London: Mantra, 2004.

The Crooked Man, beside the crooked stile, gives Jill the magic beans that start her journey to the land of the Giant. This book has characters from familiar nursery rhymes in this new version of an old favorite. Hindi and English. Ages 7-10

- Harvey, Miles. *Look What Came From India*. New York: Scholastic Inc. 1999.
The book describes many familiar things that originally came from India, including inventions, food, religions, animals, musical instruments, medicine, games, words, and fashion. Ages 7-10
- Johari, Harish and Vatsala Sperling. *How Ganesh Got His Elephant Head*. Rochester, Vermont: Bear Cub Books, 2003. Ganesh's timeless story teaches children about the power of dedication to duty, the awe-inspiring love of a mother for her child, and, finally, how compassion holds the world together. Accompanied by rich, color illustrations prepared according to the traditional Indian wash technique, this book will transport children to a magical world filled with ancient wisdom. Ages 6-9
- Johari, Harish and Vatsala Sperling. *How Parvati Won the Heart of Shiva*. Rochester, Vermont: Bear Cub Books, 2004. This timeless story of Parvati teaches that with enough love and perseverance, even the seemingly impossible can be achieved. Accompanied by rich, color illustrations executed in the traditional Indian wash technique, this book will transport readers to a magical world filled with ancient wisdom. Ages 6-9
- Johari, Harish. *Little Krishna*. Rochester, Vermont: Bear Cub Books, 2002.
Krishna is an example of every child. He tries to be good but his irrepressible high spirits lead him into any number of mischievous pranks and naughty lies. His mother, Yashoda, loves him no matter what he does, and in the end, all his adventures lead to a happy conclusion. Ages 6-9
- Kates, Bobbi Jane. *We're Different, We're the Same*. New York: Random House, 1992.
This simple book stresses the importance of understanding that even though people all have different physical features; they are all basically the same. It teaches children to accept everyone no matter how they look, what race they are, etc. Ages 4-8
- Kenoyer, Jonathan Mark and Kimberley Heuston. *The Ancient South Asian World*. Oxford University Press, 2005. This book dusts off ancient artifacts and texts and assembles them anew as pieces of the never-ending puzzle we call ancient history. Accomplished historical novelists collaborate with leading historians and archaeologists to weave the most up-to-date scholarship into stories that are vivid, suspenseful, and fun. Ages 9-13
- Kindersley, Barnabas and Anabel. *Celebrations!* New York: DK Publishing, 1997.
This book captures the color and vibrancy of international children's festivals. Children's stories are recorded in this beautiful book. Original photography and the children's own words bring to life many of the world's major religious and local celebrations.
- Krishnaswami, Uma. *Monsoon*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2003.

Children play, birds call, and grownups go about their business during the hot days of summer in northern India. But in the bustle of street and marketplace, everyone is watching, waiting for those magical clouds to bring their gift of rain to the land. Through the observations of one young girl, the scents and sounds, the dazzling colors, and the breathless anticipation of a parched cityscape are vividly evoke during the final days before the welcome arrival of the monsoon. Ages 7-10

Karwal, Divya, and Doreen Lang. *Deepak's Diwali*. London: Mantra Lingua, 2009. This warm contemporary story is interwoven with beautifully illustrated images from Hindu mythology. Hindi and English. Ages 7-11

Luenn, Nancy. *Celebrations of Light*. New York: Anthem Books for Young Readers, 1998. This book highlights twelve festivals, showing diverse ways in which people around the world use light as a major part of their celebrations. In each of these holidays, light plays a significant role, marking and brightening special days. Ages 7-10

Mehta, Lila. *The Enchanted Anklet*. Toronto: Lilmur Publishing, 1985. The typical "Cinderella" tale is found in many lands in many forms. In this book, the story is presented in the East Indian fashion of saris, golden anklets and festival of the goddess. Ages 6-9

Mehta, Lila. *Anklet for a Princess*. Fremont, CA: Shen's Books. Cinduri, hungry and ragged, is befriended by Godfather Snake, who feeds her delicacies and dresses her in gold cloth and anklets with bells and diamonds, to meet the prince. Ages 6-9

Pai, Anat, ed. *Complete Set of Amar Chitra Katha Pancharatna Volumes (set of 15)*. Mumbai: India Book House, 1998. This is a collection of illustrated classics that retell stories from Indian mythology, history, folktale and legend through the fascinating medium of comics. They not only entertain, but also provide a fitting introduction to the cultural heritage of India. Ages 8-13

- *Ancient Tales of Wit and Wisdom*
- *Brave Rajputs*
- *Devotees of Vishnu*
- *Further Stories from the Jatakas*
- *Great Rulers of India*
- *Heroes from the Mahabharata*
- *More Stories from the Jatakas*
- *Stories of Birbal*
- *Stories of Rama*
- *Stories of Shiva*
- *Stories from the Bhagawat*
- *Stories from the Jatakas*
- *Stories from the Mahabharata*

--- *Stories from Sanskrit Drama*
--- *Tales of Humor*

Pandya, Meenal. *Here Comes Holi, the Festival of Colors*. Wellesley, MA: MeeRa Publications, 2003. This book retells the ancient story of young prince Prahlad as he stands up against his evil father the King Hirnakasypu who has special powers given to him by God Brahma – the creator of the Universe. This heart-warming story portrays the eternal struggle between good and evil and the ultimate victory of good over evil. Ages 7-10

Rayner, Amanda, ed. *A Life Like Mine*. New York: DK Publishing, 2002. This book records the courage, energy, joy, and optimism of children from all over the world. Some of the children in this book enjoy every privilege in their lives; others have been deprived of some of their basic rights. Ages 7-11

Razzak, Shazia, and Prodeepta Das. *P is for Pakistan*. London: Frances Lincoln Limited, 2007. This book is a photographic alphabet introducing Pakistan. Throughout its busy cities, quiet villages and the great mountains of the Himalayas, traditional values flourish side by side with modern living. The customs, clothes and languages may vary from province to province, but they all combine to give this vibrant young country its colorful, friendly personality. Ages 6-9

Robert, Na'ima bint, and Nilesh Mistry. *The Swirling Hijab*. London: Mantra, 2002. Enter the imaginary world of a little girl playing with her mother's hijab. With a swirl of the hijab, she is at once a brave warrior queen, an adventurous nomad in the desert, a beautiful bride, or inside a Bedouin tent. Ages 5-10

Somaiah, Rosemarie. *Indian Children's Favourite Stories*. Tokyo: Tuttle Publishing, 2006. This delightful collection of Indian folktales retold for an international audience contains beautifully illustrated stories that will give children an insight into traditional culture and history of India. Ages 5-14

Sperling, Vatsala. *Karna: The Greatest Archer in the World*. Rochester, Vermont: Bear Cub Books, 2007. This book introduces the reader to the heroic but humanly flawed character of Karna, who grapples with issues of rights and wrong, truth and lies, loyalty and abandonment. It tells how Karna's loyalty to a friend and his unparalleled generosity and sense of honor ultimately cause him to give his own life so that good may triumph over evil. Ages 6-9

Sperling, Vatsala. *Hanuman's Journey to the Medicine Mountain*. Rochester, Vermont: Bear Cub Books, 2006. Illustrated with rich color painting executed in the traditional Indian wash technique, this retelling of Hanuman's story makes accessible to Western children and their parents one of the most playful and beloved characters of the Hindu tradition. Ages 6-9

Verma, Jatinder. *The Story of Divaali*. Massachusetts: Barefoot Books, 2002.

This book is a beautiful rendition of *The Ramayana*, an age-old Hindu tale that has been passed down over centuries in many variations. Ages 7-10

Williams, Karen Lynn and Khadra Mohammed. *Four Feet, Two Sandals*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eardmans Books for Young Readers, 2007. This book portrays the strength, courage, and hope of refugees around the world, whose daily lives are marked by uncertainty and fear. It was inspired by a refugee girl who asked the authors why there were no books for children like her. Ages 7-10