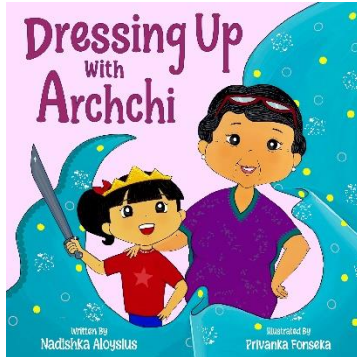


DRESSING UP WITH ARCHCHI

TEACHERS' GUIDE



LEVEL: Grades K - 5

THEMES

Asian Interest, Sri Lanka, Clothing, Customs, Diverse Books, Multicultural, Multi-generational, Empowerment, Creative Play

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Enjoy a colourful afternoon of fun and frolic with a spirited youngster as she slays monsters and demonstrates that girls can be whatever they want to be – they only need an active imagination and the love and support of a wonderful grandmother!

This charming picture book is about a little Sri Lankan girl who loves playing dress up with her Archchi (grandma in Sinhalese). She selects a colourful sari, decorates her hair, and puts on her (non-toxic) makeup with care. But she is no ordinary Asian Princess.

The book is illustrated in vibrant colours and also includes three activity pages and a DIY Jigsaw Puzzle. Empowerment and entertainment will go hand in hand as you spend an enjoyable evening Dressing Up With Archchi!

This will be perfect for kids who admire strong characters like Elsa, Moana, Merida, and Raya.

SYNOPSIS

A little girl visits her grandmother every Thursday for an afternoon of creative play. The book begins in traditional fashion with the girl and her grandmother dressing up in saris. But things change with the arrival of her brother. Wearing a Sri Lankan Devil Mask he pretends to be a monster while she grabs a sword and becomes the warrior princess.

BACKGROUND

Sri Lanka is a small island nation off the southern coast of India. This book celebrates both traditional and modern cultural values. It has no definite setting – the children could be locals or those of Sri Lankan descent living overseas. The girl has no name and can represent any little girl who loves to spend time with her grandmother.

The book celebrates a child's ability to bridge the gap between traditional and modern life as well as the ability to be both feminine and strong. The story encourages children to wear traditional clothes and play at being a princess while being confident and assertive enough to battle monsters along the way.

Devil Mask

This is a wooden mask which is used in traditional healing ceremonies. While the original version can be over 3 feet in length and extremely heavy to strap onto your head, the version used in the book is a toy.

Check the Resources section below for a Youtube video and Image.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Let's find Sri Lanka on a map. Have you heard of it before?
2. Do you know what a sari is? (Resources image 1)
3. Can you guess what this is? (Resources image 2 and background to Devil Mask)
4. What name do you use for your grandmother?
5. Have you ever played dress up?
6. Who did you dress up as for your last birthday/Halloween?
7. Would you like to share something about your grandmother?
8. How do you play with your siblings?

WHILE READING

(The illustrations can be used to ask concept/SEL questions too)

1. What colours are they wearing?
2. What can you see in the girl's room?
3. Can you spot the hidden elephant toy?
4. Have you ever used make-up in a game? (Explain what non-toxic means)
5. What time is it when the shadow appears at the door?
6. Who do you think is at the door?
7. Is she scared of the boy in the mask?
8. Who do you think is the angel?
9. Who do you think may be picking them up after playtime is over?

AFTER READING

Discussion Questions

1. Which was your favourite illustration? Why?
2. What colour do you like to wear?
3. Would you like to play with a Devil Mask?
4. Would you like to wear a sari?
5. What's your favourite game? Who do you play with?
6. Have you read or watched any movies about a warrior princess?
7. The girl doesn't have a name! What would you like to call her?
8. If this is a diverse/multicultural class, ask them to share something about their clothes and culture.

CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

COLOURING

There are 2 colouring pages in the paperback version which can be used for this activity. Please photocopy those two images and use at your discretion.

Activity 2

COLLAGE

Design a sari print using a blank white sheet

Glue, crayons, coloured pencils

Crushed paper, coloured sand, seeds, spices or any other material to fill in the picture

a – Using a pencil draw a design for a sari (hint: The border is usually more decorative than the centre)

b – Using crayons or pencils colour it in leaving white spaces for the collage

c - Apply glue on ONE section that you wish to fill in. In this way you can control which area is filled in and avoid overlapping and leakage

d - Paste your material to fill in as much of the white as you can

e - Go on to the next section and on... until the picture is complete!

Remember, you will have to let each section dry a little before moving on as you don't want to mess it up!

Activity 3

CREATE YOUR OWN MASK

Photocopy the picture of the Devil Mask. Colour it in, cut it out, and paste it on a board to make it firm. Make two holes for an elastic band so that the children can wear it. You can also make holes for the eyes.

If you would like to try another activity there is a JIGSAW PUZZLE in the Paperback version of the book. (Amazon link at the end of this document).

WRITING ACTIVITIES

1. Write a diary entry for either the girl or the boy describing their day at Archchi's house
2. Draw a picture showing the two children playing Maidens and Monsters (a scene different to the one in the book)
3. Write a story or draw a picture of a brave Princess who has to battle a monster
4. Create your own sequel of what happens next Thursday

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Students can research details about Sri Lanka and make a presentation to the class
2. To expand on the theme of cultures, younger students can wear a traditional costume or bring an item to 'Show and Tell'
3. If you are feeling courageous enough learn to wear a sari with the help of your students! You will need a lightweight material of about 6 yards (Demo video in Resources)

ORDER INFORMATION

The book is available on Amazon worldwide

getbook.at/DressingupwithArchchi

RESOURCES

Sari



Devil Mask



About Devil Masks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MTutZjJAbo>

How to wear a sari

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcPGxnFLTgw>

