

EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

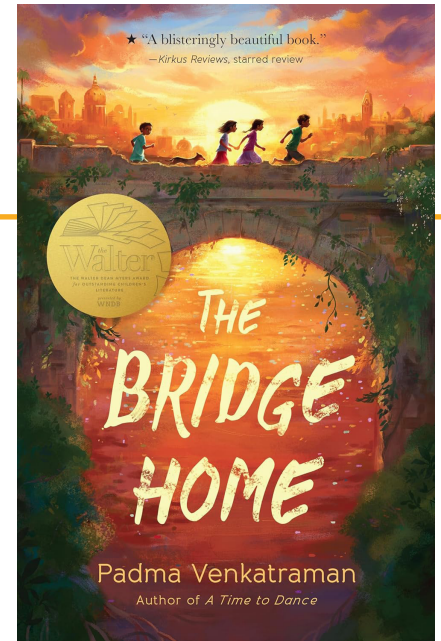
Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!

Meet the author

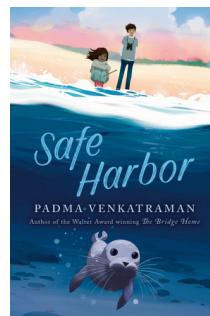
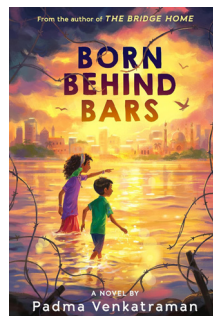
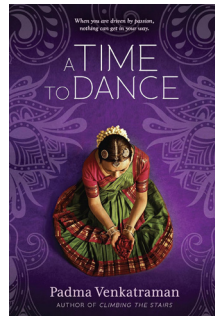


Padma Venkatraman was born in India. She worked as chief scientist on oceanographic ships, explored rainforests, directed a school, and lived in five countries before becoming an American citizen. She then settled down in Rhode Island. Venkatraman enjoys teaching, mentoring, participating on panels, giving commencement speeches, and providing keynote addresses at national conferences.

Visit her [WEBSITE](#).



Read more from Padma :



EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

LET'S BEGIN! BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Use the Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) questions below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

- *What is going on in this picture?*
- *What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)*
- *What more can we find?*

Watch this [VIDEO](#) for a quick VTS demo

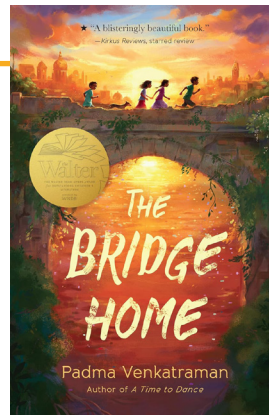
HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Alison Johnson at Island Readers & Writers, 207-460-6828 or ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org.

LET'S TALK!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What makes a home? What is the significance of the bridge? If you emphasize different words in the title, does it change the way you interpret the meaning? Example: The **Bridge** Home or The Bridge **Home**
2. One chapter of this book is named "Choosing Family." What family are they referring to? How does one choose a family? How are these new friendships and life better or worse than the old one?
3. Viji makes a decision to leave home and she takes her sister with her. Think about how a person's decisions and actions can change his/her life. See if you can find evidence from the book to support your ideas. (Or, can you think of times in the book where this happened?)
4. In what way does the dog, Kutti change the course of the characters?
5. Think about ways children made money in the book. How do children make money in the US? Make a list and compare.



STANDARDS

Covered throughout this Explore More Book Guide:

SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

SL.3 Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.

R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.

R.5 Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.

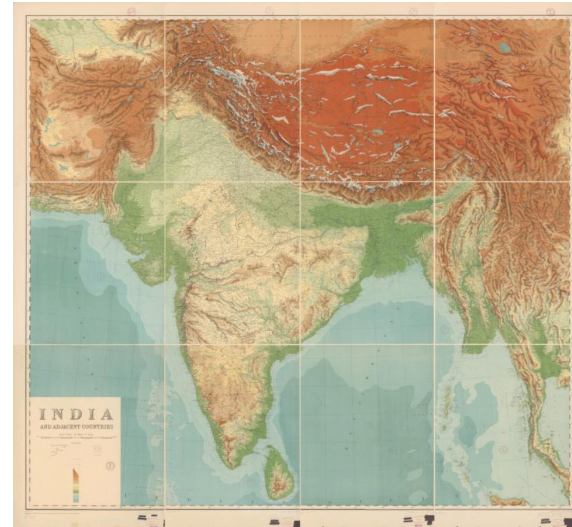
R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

R.8 Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.

R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.

A2 Literary Texts- Students read fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry, within a grade appropriate span of text complexity.

6. On page 63, Arul calls Viji “bossy.” This helps her come to a realization, one that she has mixed emotions about. Talk about a time where you felt conflicting feelings? Was Arul right to let Rukku help sort the trash?
7. In the chapter titled, “Riches,” Rukku sets her balloon free. What do you think the significance of that gesture is? Were you surprised?
8. On page 103 Muthu says, “Our palace is a home inside my head, and those men can’t wreck it ever.” Do you agree with Muthu? Think about these words and what Muthu and the other children meant by them.
9. Viji does not like it when people think she is begging. It’s easier for her to accept help if she works for it or if it helps someone else in some way. Why do you think this is? How would you react in a similar situation?
10. After reading, take notice of the author’s note at the end of the book, pages 189–191. How does knowing this information change your feelings or interpretations of the story?
11. Ask yourself:
 - What would I like to know about India?
 - Why did the author choose these characters?
 - Why do you think the author chose to write this story in **epistolary** style?



LET’S CREATE (AND DO)! Book-Inspired Art



DIORAMA: a model representing a scene with three-dimensional figures

1. Create a **diorama** of the camp at the bridge. Use descriptions from pages 27–29 and 48.
2. Try writing a short story in **epistolary** style as Padma Venkatraman did for this book.
3. On pages 44–45 the description of the girls eating an orange is full of sensory descriptions. Choose any food and take time to use your senses to describe it. Draw and write about how it smells, feels and tastes. Use all of your senses to discover your food before eating.
4. Learn about **KOLAM ART**. Try making your own! You can use the powder from different colored chalk or rice.

EPISTOLARY

a narrative style where a story is told through written documents, such as letters, emails, diary entries, or text messages. The word “epistolary” comes from the Latin word *epistola*, which means “letter”.

5. Matching Game Appendix A: Match the Indian words printed on yellow cards to its meaning printed on the blue cards.

LET'S DIVE DEEPER! Explore More

1. [IDEAS AND TEMPLATES](#) from Teachers Pay Teachers
2. [DISCUSSION GUIDE](#) by Penguin Classroom
3. [VIDEO](#) on India's Mount Everest of Garbage
4. [THE NIGHTMARE OF INDIA'S TALLEST RUBBISH MOUNTAIN](#)
5. *Dateline* catches up with Delhi's street kid reporters...(Graphic Content Warning) [INDIA'S STREET KIDS: TELLING THEIR OWN STORY](#)
6. [ROCK GARDEN CHANDIGARH ENGLISH](#)

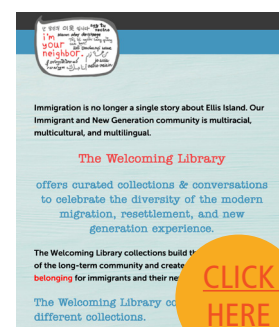
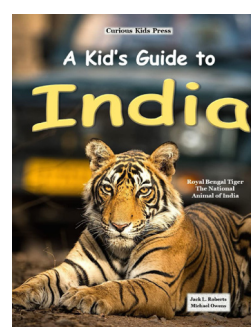
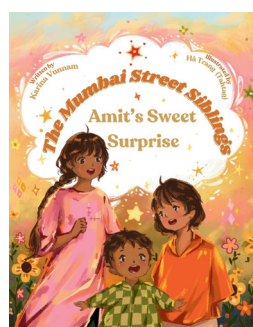
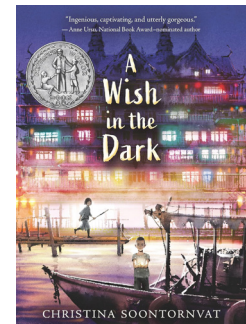
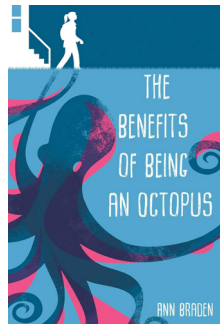
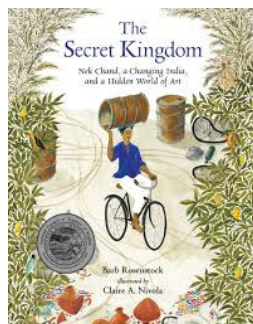


Learn more about Indian culture with these sites:

- Use this [VIDEO](#) to learn about Indian Rupees (paper notes, money).
- Observe the locations on the back of the Indian Rupees and research more about them.
- Nadaswaram, the [MANGALA VADYAM](#) (auspicious instrument) is a double reed wind instrument which is the world's loudest non-brass acoustic instrument. Nadaswaram instrument were often played at weddings. *Photo from Wikipedia Commons.*



LET'S READ MORE! Text to Text Connections



CLICK
HERE

aamaam

The Bridge Home

akka

The Bridge Home

amma

The Bridge Home

appa

The Bridge Home

yes

The Bridge Home

older sister

The Bridge Home

mother

The Bridge Home

father

The Bridge Home

biryani

The Bridge Home

Divali

The Bridge Home

illam

The Bridge Home

kolam

The Bridge Home

**a spicy rice
dish**

The Bridge Home

**a major
Hindu
holiday
“festival of
lights”**

The Bridge Home

**house or
home**

The Bridge Home

**floor
drawings
made with
ground
flour or
chalk**

The Bridge Home

murukku

The Bridge Home

nadhaswaram

The Bridge Home

payasam

The Bridge Home

roti

The Bridge Home

**a deep fried
crispy snack
made of
lentil flour
shaped into
spirals**

The Bridge Home

**a double
reed wind
instrument-
sounds like
a
saxophone**

The Bridge Home

**pudding
made with
rice type
noodles**

The Bridge Home

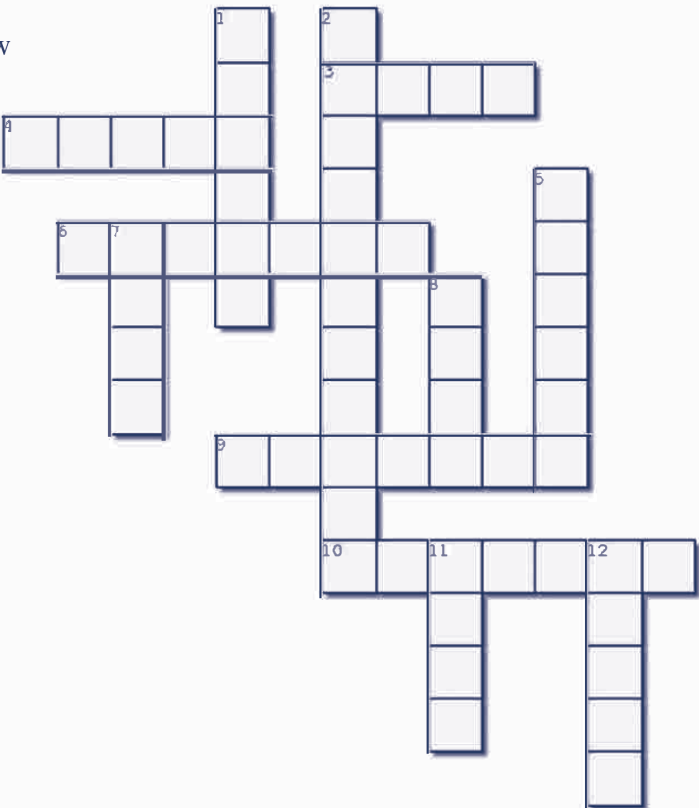
**Indian
flatbread**

The Bridge Home

The Bridge Home

Fill in the Indian word based on its meaning below

Name: _____



Across

- 3. older sister
- 4. house or home
- 6. pudding made with rice type noodles
- 9. a spicy rice dish
- 10. a deep fried crispy snack made of lentil flour

Down

- 1. yes
- 2. a double reed wind instrument (sounds like a saxophone)
- 5. a major Hindu holiday "festival of lights"
- 7. mother
- 8. father
- 11. Indian flatbread
- 12. floor drawings with flour or chalk

- Divali, a major Hindu holiday "festival of lights"
- Iliam, house or home
- murukku, a deep fried crispy snack made of lentil flour
- nadhaswaram, a double reed wind instrument (sounds like a saxophone)
- payasam, pudding made with rice type noodles
- roti, Indian flatbread
- aamaam, yes
- akka, older sister
- amma, mother
- kolam, floor drawings with flour or chalk
- appa, father
- biryani, a spicy rice dish