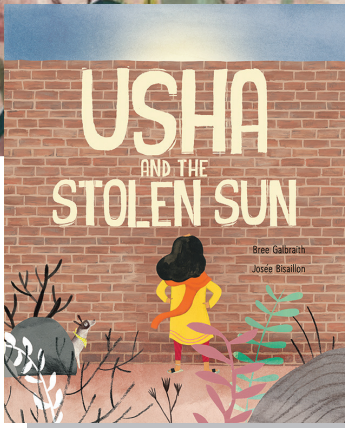


USHA AND THE STOLEN SUN

Discussion Guide by Bree Galbraith



Book written by Bree Galbraith
and illustrated by José Bisailon

About the Book

Usha lives in a town where the sun hasn't shone for as long as anyone can remember. Her grandfather tells Usha stories about the time before other people took the sun away, building a wall to keep it all to themselves. So Usha decides to do something and sets off in search of the sun. When at last Usha reaches the wall, she tries to kick it down—but the bricks don't budge. It's only after remembering her grandfather's words and hearing voices on the other side that Usha changes her plan to make her voice heard. She shares her grandfather's stories, even the ones that rightfully make her angry, and piques the curiosity of the people on the other side, stirring them to remove the bricks to better hear what Usha has to say. Because Usha didn't give up, they bring the wall down. Inspired by the idea of civil discourse, this book offers a timely message of communication and compassion.

Discussion Questions

- When Grandfather was little, a wall was built to block the sun from his town. How do you think life would be different if you didn't have access to direct sunlight? What about access to clean air? Or fresh water?
- Can you think of things that you get to experience that others do not? What about the other way around?
- Usha has never seen the sun. How does she know she deserves it? Do we have basic rights as human beings? Should all human beings on Earth share the same rights? If so, can you think of any examples?
- In your family, who decides what is fair and what is unfair? What about in your classroom? Or in your town, city, state, province, or country?
- When a system of fairness doesn't work for everyone, is it possible to change it? Have you heard of ways in your family, community, or country that people have changed what is considered fair or unfair?
- When Usha first finds the wall, she tries to kick it down and yells at the wall to move. When this doesn't work, Usha decides to try another strategy. What is it? Have you ever tried different strategies to make yourself heard? What has worked for you? What hasn't?
- Usha tells a variety of stories to the people behind the wall. Some are sad, some are funny, and some make Usha angry. Why might Usha's audience find it difficult to listen to her stories?
- What are some things we can do to make people feel like we are listening to them? How can you show someone you are listening with your ears? Your eyes? Your heart?
- The wall was standing long before Usha found it. Why do you think it was built? Why didn't the people on the other side take it down before Usha got there?
- Have you experienced, heard, or seen unfair situations in your life? Brainstorm ways in which we can show fairness towards others. Brainstorm ways in which we can gain more fairness for ourselves.

ISBN: 978-1-77147-276-0

CURRICULUM LINKS:

Language Arts: Reading

READING LEVELS:

Grade: Pre-K—4

Fountas & Pinnell: K

Reading Recovery: 19

Lexile® Measure: 550L

Common Core: SL, W, L, RL, RF