Día! Family Book Club
Lesson Plan 6: Ages 4-8

Book Information
My Dadima Wears a Sari by Kashmira Sheth

Pre-Club Activities
Prior to the club, pass out copies of the book and invite families to compare their family traditions to those depicted in the story.

Club Activities

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<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Point out India on an atlas or other large map. Read the author’s note at the end of the book aloud.</td>
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| Discussion Questions      | 1. Throughout the story, Rupa uses the word dadima, which means “grandmother” in the Hindi language. What special names do you have for members of your family? Do your family members have a special name for you? How do you feel when you’re called by that special name?  
2. Dadima imagines using her sari in many ways—as a fan, a pouch, and an umbrella. What other ways can you imagine using Dadima’s sari?  
3. Why do you think Dadima never gets tired of wearing her sari? On what three occasions were saris especially important in Dadima’s life? Talk about a time when wearing a favorite piece of clothing had special meaning for you.  
4. Rupa and Neha are excited about sharing the Indian tradition of sari-wearing with Dadima. How do you think the girls feel about receiving Dadima’s saris? What cultural traditions do you share with your family (e.g. clothing, holidays, celebrations)?  
5. At the end of the book, the author tells us that saris are an important part of her family’s heritage: “Each sari that passes from one generation to the next tells stories and holds memories in its folds.” Is there a treasured object that’s been passed down in your family? Why is it special? |
| Family Activity           | Create a family tree that spans as many generations as possible or a family timeline that includes memorable events and milestones. |
| Small Group Activity      | In small groups, with groups cycling through craft stations:  
1. Sari tying (instructions at the back of the book);  
2. India Discovery Station (books, objects, videos related to Indian culture); and  
3. Rakhi bracelet making (for Raksha Bandhan festival, honoring bond between brothers and sisters). |

Visit http://dia.ala.org for more resources, activity sheets, and information.
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Post Club Activities

1. Visit an Indian restaurant to sample some new cuisine, or check out a cookbook from the library and create a dish at home. (Try tandoori chicken, grilled naan, and the famous mango lassi!)

2. Look through family photos and talk together about favorite memories or milestones, such as birthdays, weddings, and vacations.

3. Learn more about the Hindu festival of Diwali, celebrated in October or November of each year. Find a celebration in your community, and mark your calendar for the festivities.

Additional Resources

1. Instructions for making Rakhi Bracelets:
   http://www.makeithandmade.com/2012/07/tutorial-make-your-own-rakhi-for-raksha.html

Activity | Description/Information
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Full Group Activity | Create a Peacock Handprint Mural: Celebrate the national bird of India by creating a peacock mural from everyone’s handprints! On a large sheet of poster paper, draw the peacock’s body and paint it blue. Then invite families to dip their hands in washable green paint and press them onto the paper to create the peacock’s feathers. As the paint begins to dry, add blue spots of paint to the palms of each handprint. Personalize the mural even more with everyone’s names, and then proudly display it in the library!