Día! Family Book Club  
Lesson Plan 2: Ages 8-12

Book Information
*Tua and the Elephant* by R.P. Harris

Pre-Club Activities
Prior to the club, pass out copies of the book and invite families to talk about how the illustrations enhance their reading experiences. What events, ideas, and emotions do the illustrations convey?

Club Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description/Information</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>Point out Thailand on an atlas or other large map. Read the author’s note at the end of the book and use it to begin discussion.</td>
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| **Discussion Questions** | 1. The story opens with Tua’s visit to the night market in her home city of Chiang Mai, Thailand (p. 12-15). Describe the sights, smells, and sounds Tua experiences. Have you ever visited a farmer’s market or craft fair in your community with lots of different vendors? What was it like?  
   2. Early in the story, the author tells readers, “All Thais love the elephant…” (p. 30). Why do you think Tua is so drawn to Pohn-Pohn when she first meets her? What would you do if you witnessed someone being unkind or cruel to an animal?  
   3. After rescuing Pohn-Pohn from Nang and Nak, Tua goes to three different places for help: Auntie Orchid's house, Uncle Chi Chi’s Buddhist wat, and Mae Noi’s elephant sanctuary. What happens at each place? What dangers do Tua and Pohn-Pohn encounter while traveling from one place to the next? Where could you go or who could you ask if you were in trouble and needed help?  
   4. Tua encounters a farang—someone who is not Thai—at two key moments in the story. The first time is on the streets of Chiang Mai (p. 25-27); the second time is at the elephant sanctuary (p. 167-73 and p. 180-83). What are the differences between these two encounters? How does Tua’s opinion of farang change from the beginning of the story to the end?  
   5. At the end of the book, Tua and her new friend Kanchanok bring Pohn-Pohn to Mae Noi at the elephant sanctuary—a special place of safety and protection. What places in your life are like sanctuaries for you? How do you feel when you’re in those places? Why? |
| **Family Activity** | Auntie Orchid and Tua talk about the importance of names in Thai culture (p. 50-54): Tua means “peanut,” and Pohn-Pohn means “double happiness.” Talk together about the names of people and pets in your family. Do their names suit them? Why or why not? |

Visit [http://dia.ala.org](http://dia.ala.org) for more resources, activity sheets, and information.
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<td>Small Group Activity</td>
<td>1. Design Challenge: Design a structure that can hide Pohn-Pohn from unkind mahouts Nang and Nak.</td>
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<td>2. Word Search: Find the key words from Tua and the Elephant in the puzzle and talk about how each character, event, place, or idea relates to the book. (Please see separate attachment.)</td>
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<td>3. Tissue Paper Phuang Malai: Create traditional Thai flower garlands (Phuang Malai) from tissue paper, tape, and ribbon. To make the flowers, cut tissue paper circles in various sizes and colors. Grasp one or more circles in the center and twist into a flower shape, securing the base with a small piece of tape. Punch holes near the bases of the flowers and thread them onto thin strips of ribbon, knotting as needed. Hang the finished Phuang Malai around the room as decoration for your Night Market.</td>
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<td>Full Group Activities</td>
<td>Re-create the night market from Tua’s home city of Chiang Mai, using p. 12-15 and the illustration on p. 14 for inspiration. Decorate with strings of lights and fill baskets or tables with fruit, vegetables, and flowers. Play a CD of traditional Thai music, wear phuang malai (see above), and sample sweet treats like coconut ice cream and sliced bananas and chocolate sauce!</td>
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Post Club Activities

1. Visit a Thai restaurant to sample some new cuisine, or check out a cookbook from the library and create a dish at home. (Try some of Tua’s favorites, like pad thai, coconut curry, and sticky rice.)

2. Check out an informational book about elephants from the library. Learn more about Asian elephants like Pohn-Pohn, especially the challenges they face in today’s world.

3. Explore the Elephant Nature Park website and learn more about efforts to rescue and rehabilitate Asian elephants in Northern Thailand. Meet the elephants in the herd and read their stories!

Additional Resources for Club

1. Instructions for making Rakhi Bracelets: http://www.makeithandmade.com/2012/07/tutorial-make-your-own-rakhi-for-raksha.html
Find these key words from *Tua and the Elephant* by R. P. Harris. Words may appear down, across, diagonally, or even backwards!

- AUNTIE ORCHID
- BAHT
- CHIANG MAI
- CURRY
- ELEPHANT
- FARANG
- FRIENDSHIP
- KANCHANOK
- MAE NOI
- MAHOUT
- MANGO
- NIGHT MARKET
- POHN POHN
- RANSOM
- SANCTUARY
- THAILAND
- TUA
- TUK TUK

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Word Search

Dia! Diversity in Action