

Reading Thematic Overview

'Tamarind and the Star of Ishta' – Jasminder Bilan

Tamarind and the Star of Ishta is an engaging book that follows a young girl's journey as she seeks to find where she belongs, while uncovering the connection between her cultural heritage and the magical elements of her world.

English

Pupils could explain why Tamarind is curious about her family's past and her mother's background, analysing her motivations and how they shape her actions. This encourages Pupils to provide evidence from the text to support their explanations.

Key plot events, like Tamarind's discovery of secrets about her family, provide a rich basis for recounting experiences with vivid descriptions and emotive language. Pupils could recount these events using chronological ordering and focusing on Tamarind's emotional journey.

Art

Encourage Pupils to illustrate scenes or characters from the book that evoke a sense of space or freedom. They can use large sheets of paper to create expansive murals or individual pieces that represent their understanding of the concept of space in the narrative.

Have Pupils create a rangoli piece that reflects their personal journey or feelings after reading the book. They can use colours and shapes that resonate with their interpretations of Tamarind's adventures and growth.

Geography

Flooding is an important symbol in the story, representing the turmoil and changes in Tamarind's life. It illustrates not only physical challenges but also her emotional struggles and cultural upheaval. The flooding mirrors Tamarind's sense of being lost and her search for identity. Furthermore, the impact of flooding in Tamarind's life emphasises themes of resilience and adaptability. It parallels her journey as she learns to embrace her cultural roots while confronting challenges stemming from her family's past and her current situation. In this way, the flooding serves as a key moment for personal growth and self-discovery, linking the environmental theme to broader questions about identity and belonging.

Science

Discuss how Tamarind's adventures involve movement and the forces acting on her. You could conduct experiments to demonstrate gravity, such as dropping different objects and measuring the time it takes for them to hit the ground.

Use Tamarind's connection to nature and her journey to discuss climate change and global warming. Engage Pupils in researching how climate change affects different parts of the world and what can be done to mitigate its effects.

Technology

Pupils can design a simple monitoring device that could help Tamarind track her adventures or keep notes on her explorations. They might brainstorm how modern devices like GPS or motion sensors work and apply these ideas to their design, using simple materials or digital drawing software.

Discuss the different materials that can be used to create diva lamps, such as clay, plastic, or even recycled materials. This could lead to an investigation of conductivity and how different materials impact safety in lighting technology.

History

In the story, Tamarind's exploration of her identity relates to themes of invasion and settlement in Britain, highlighting how people from diverse backgrounds adapt to new places, much like those who faced challenges during historical invasions. The novel also subtly reflects some social and historical aspects of 1971, such as migration and cultural shifts occurring in Britain at the time.

