

Aarna and Iris' Big Task

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Family & Friends

Community

Culture & Tradition

SUB-THEMES

New student

Singing bowls

Stories from the Northeast, India

Caring & Sharing

Kindness and empathy

Story Discussion Guide

- Understand the importance of welcoming new classmates.
- Recognize how sensory details help us connect with a place and its people.
- Appreciate the cultural richness of regions like Sikkim.
- Reflect on how small acts of kindness can ease big transitions.

Lesson plan

Using the story of Aarna and Iris, children will explore inclusion, friendship, and regional traditions. They will be encouraged to engage their five senses in identifying key details from the story and their own lives.

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- Have you ever been the new student in class? How did it feel?
- What do you notice first when meeting someone new?
- What kinds of food or smells remind you of your home or family?

During Reading :

- What are some things Aarna and Iris do to help Norgay feel welcome?
- What sights, sounds, and smells are mentioned in the story?
- What must be Norgay's feelings whilst he was being shown around the school?

After Reading-

- Which sensory moments from the story did you like best?
- Why is it important to help someone feel at home?
- What traditions do you celebrate that others may not know about?

Activities:

- **Sensory Mapping Activity:** Children create a '5 Senses' chart listing what they see, smell, hear, touch, and taste that day.
- **Welcome Card Design:** Design a card or drawing for a new student in school.
- **Sikkim Culture Snapshot:** Show images of Sikkim—mountains, food, clothes, singing bowls—and talk about what makes it unique.
- **Sound of Singing Bowls:** Play a short clip of Tibetan singing bowls. Ask: How does it make you feel?
- **Compare Traditions:** Students share something from their own culture or family and describe how it looks, sounds, or smells.

Expected Outcomes

Children will feel empowered to welcome others, recognize sensory richness in storytelling, and develop greater awareness of regional diversity.

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG Explanation

- SDG 4: Encourages social-emotional learning and understanding of regional cultures.
- SDG 10: Promotes inclusion and support for newcomers.
- SDG 11: Celebrates the culture and traditions of mountain communities.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams. Today's children are tomorrow's citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them. That's why it's vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.