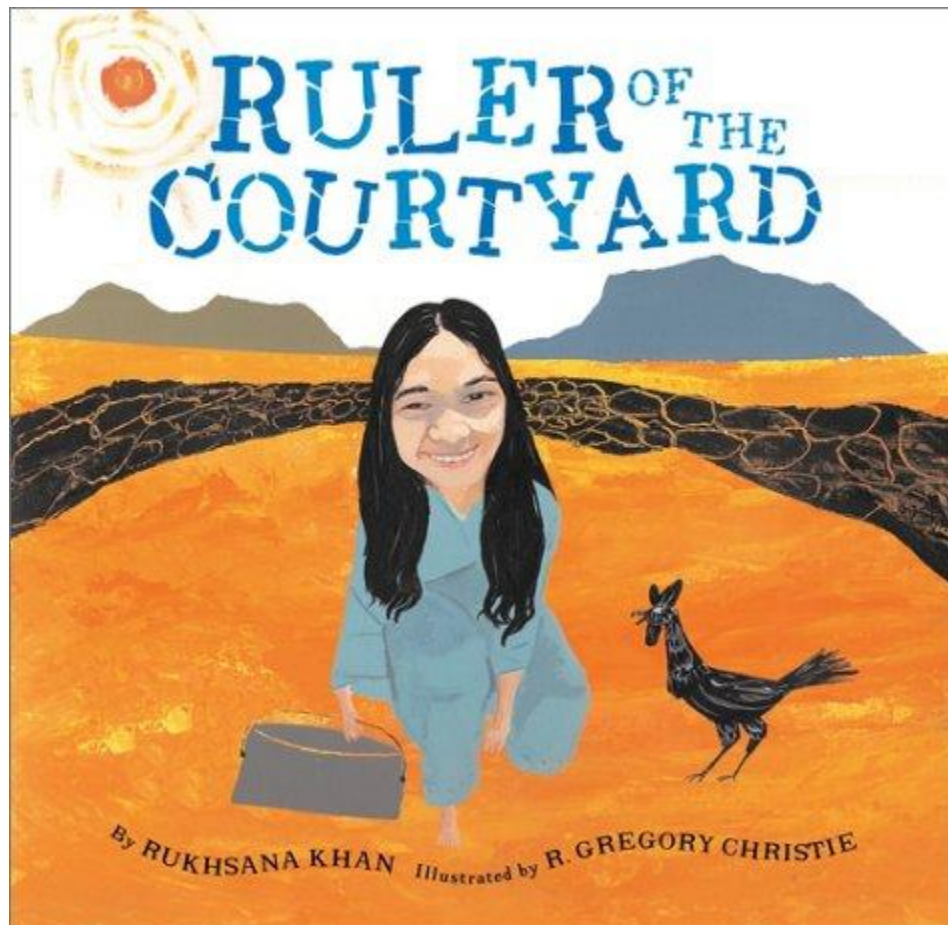


Ruler of the Courtyard
Teacher's Guide for Grades K-3
With Student Activity Sheets



by Rukhsana Khan
www.rukhsanakhan.com

About Rukhsana Khan

Rukhsana has been writing seriously since 1989 with, at this point, ten books published, several of which have been nominated and/or won various awards.

Along the way she also became a storyteller and has performed at numerous festivals. For more information on Rukhsana and her books please see her website:

www.rukhsanakhan.com



Rukhsana was born in Lahore, Pakistan and immigrated to Canada, with her family, at the age of three. She began by writing for community magazines and went on to write songs and stories for the Adam's World children's videos. Rukhsana is a member of SCBWI, The Writers Union of Canada, CANSCAIP, and Storytelling Toronto. She lives in Toronto with her husband and family. Rukhsana has four children, three girls and a boy.

Books by Rukhsana:

Wanting Mor

A New Life

Many Windows

Silly Chicken

Ruler of the Courtyard

The Roses in My Carpets

Muslim Child








King of the Skies

Bedtime Ba-a-a-lk

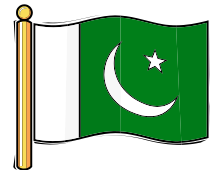
Dahling if You Luv Me Would You Please Please Smile






The following curriculum applications are fulfilled by the discussion topics and activities outlined in this teacher's guide:

Legend	
 writing applications	 character applications
 visual art applications	 Social Studies
 drama applications	 Music
 Science	

Discussion topics and Activities before Reading the Book:



Grades K – Grade 3:

1. Find Pakistan, and then Lahore on a map. 
2. What is the climate like? How hot does it get in the daytime in summer? In winter? How cool does it get at night?
3. How can you tell right away that this story takes place in another country?
4. What kind of clothes do people in Pakistan wear? (shalwar kameez) In *Ruler of the Courtyard*, Saba and her Nani (grandmother) are wearing a shalwar kameez. Men wear them too.
5. Colour the picture of a shalwar kameez on page 6. Remember to add in some decorations especially at the neck and sleeves. Where does the 'nala' go?  What does the nala do? (Answer: The 'nala' is a drawstring that is used to gather up the many folds of the shalwar.) 

6. If there are South Asian children in the class ask them to bring in a shalwar kameez and nala to show the class.
7. What kind of snakes live in Pakistan? (Answer: cobras and other venomous snakes) What would you do if you saw a snake?



Discussion topics and Activities after Reading the Book:

Grades K - 3








Discussion Topics:

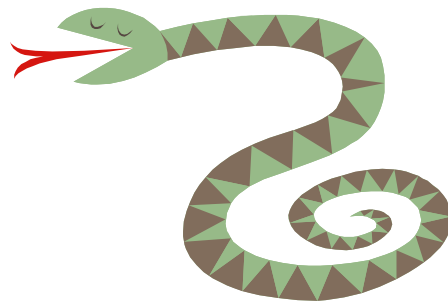
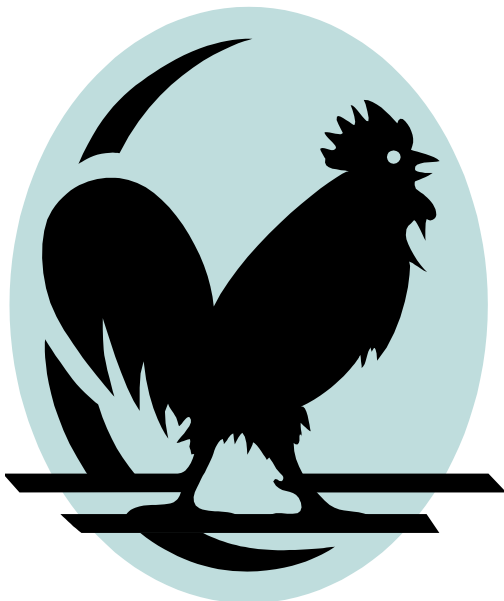


1. Have you ever been afraid of chickens? Are you still afraid? If not, how did you get over it?
2. Would this story be the same if it took place where you live? Why or why not?
3. How would the story be different if told through one of the chicken's eyes?
4. How has Saba's opinion of chickens changed by the end of the story?
5. If you wrote a story about fear how would it be different?
6. How do you think the drawstring got in the bath house?
7. Why can't Saba just sneak past the snake?
8. In the illustrations sometimes the snake appears very close and sometimes it appears very far. Why do think the artist showed the snake this way? (Answer: Fear is about perspective. By showing the snake up close and far away the artist is playing with perspective.)
9. What are other things people can be afraid of?
10. Discuss other fears and the ways in which people can overcome them.



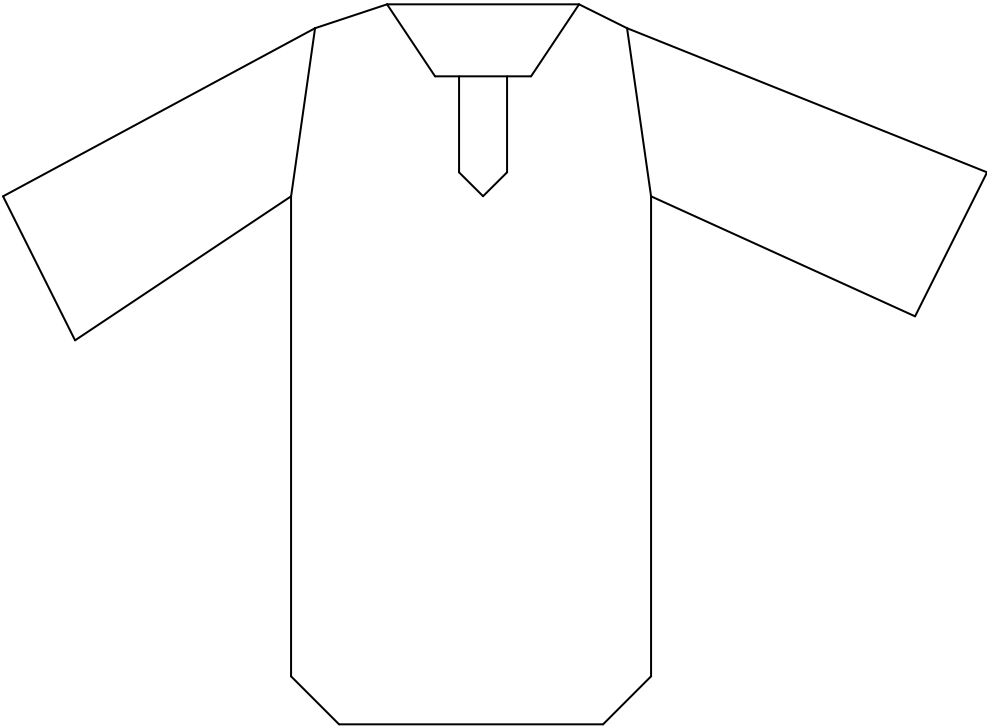
Activities:

1. Write a story where you're afraid of an animal. 
2. Act out the story. 
3. The illustrations of each page really convey the emotions Saba is feeling. Using a mirror, turn each page and try to imitate the expression on Saba's face. Check the mirror and see if you're successful. How many different expressions of fear can you see? 
4. After Saba sees the snake, notice how the sentences change. Clap out the rhythm of the sentences while someone reads them out loud. What does the rhythm remind you of? 
5. Write a song or chant that the chickens might compose about Saba. 
6. Tell family stories where you or a family member faced a danger. Were you able to overcome your fear? 
7. Play some music and have the children move like a snake. Then challenge them to do it at different levels, speeds and directions. Do the same for chickens. 
8. Would this story be the same if it took place where you live? Why or why not?

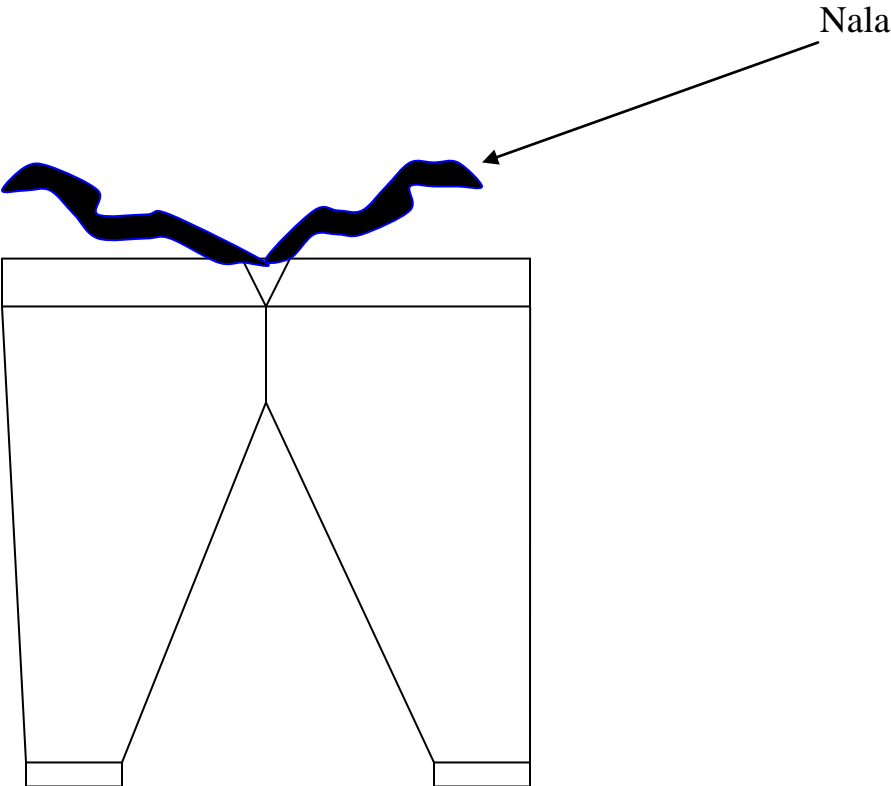


Student Activity Sheet: Colour the Picture

Kameez



Shalwar





Student Question Sheet for Ruler of the Courtyard Grades 1-3

1. What is it about the chickens that most scares Saba?

2. Who rules the courtyard at the beginning of the story? Who rules it at the end?

3. How do Saba's feelings for her Nani (grandmother) allow her to overcome her fear of the snake?

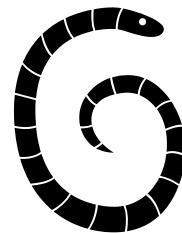
4. How would you describe the behavior of the chickens towards Saba?

5. At the beginning of the story, where do you think Saba spends most of her time?

6. At the end of the story, where do you think she'll be spending most of her time?

7. How often do you think Saba has to face the chickens? Is being afraid of them a big problem for her? _____

8. Do you think Saba will get afraid easily after the story?



Other Related Books:

Silly Chicken by Rukhsana Khan

Emma's Eggs by Margriet Ruurs

Emma at the Fair by Margriet Ruurs

Emma and the Coyote by Margriet Ruurs

Emma's Cold Day by Margriet Ruurs

Wake up Henry Rooster by Margriet Ruurs

