

# The Light Within You

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Belonging, Diwali, Family, Friendship, New Experiences, Self-Confidence

**Book Brief:** Diya is thrilled to visit India for Diwali and reunite with her beloved Nani, immersing herself in the joy of the festival. As their time together draws to a close, Diya wonders how she can carry the light and magic of Diwali back home with her.

**Author:**  
Namita Moolani Mehra

**Illustrator:**  
Kamala Nair



## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about Diya.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask students, "How would you feel if you moved to a new school?"

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read today, pay attention to Diya's journey and what she learns."

## DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- How does Diya feel in the beginning of the story? Why?
- Make the connection between Diya's light and her confidence? What do you notice?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** Diya returns home after her trip to India. Explain how she feels and what she has learned about herself.

**Extending Our Thinking:** Using [RIF's Main Idea and Key Details](#), have students determine the main idea with supporting details from the text.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Read other books about Diwali; [Diwali \(Celebrations & Festivals\)](#), [Let's Celebrate Diwali](#), and [Diwali \(Rookie Read-About® Holidays\)](#).