

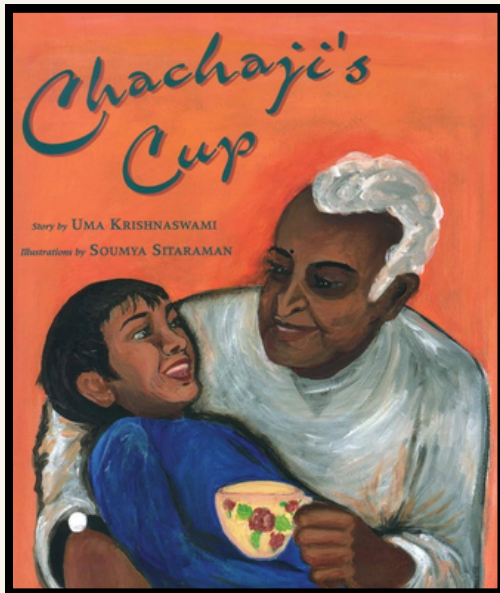
Partition

booklist

A range of texts across formats and genres for children and young adults that represent experiences of the 1947 partition of British India into India and Pakistan



Picture Books



Chachaji's Cup

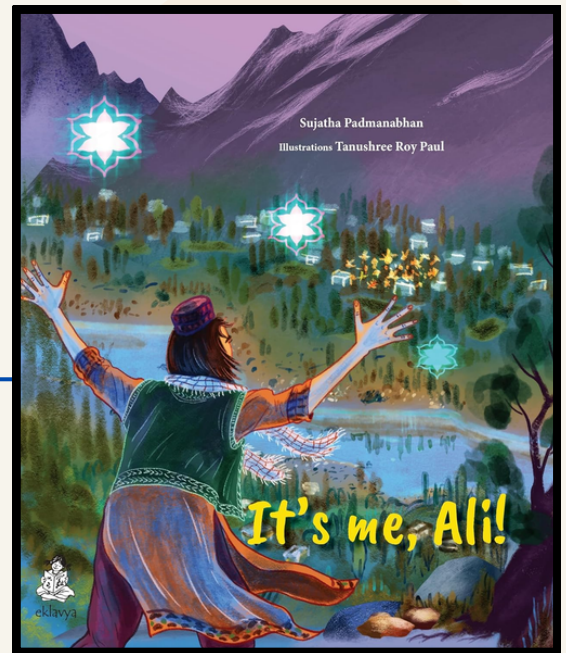
Author: Uma Krishnaswami
Illustrator: Soumya Sitaraman
Publisher: Children's Book Press
Publication Year: 2003
Ideal for: 10-14 years
Genre: Fiction

Neel loves listening to Chachaji's many stories over steaming cups of tea. Chachaji's tales of great Hindu gods and demons and of his adventures in the Indian Army leave Neel openmouthed. But it is the tale of his great-uncle's favorite teacup that teaches Neel the most, for Chachaji's cup holds far more than sweet, spicy masala chai. When the precious cup and Chachaji's health both prove to be more fragile than they look, Neel knows what he must do. Uma Krishnaswami weaves a gentle tale of family love and the power of memory, which Soumya Sitaraman brings to vivid life in her richly hued paintings.

It's Me, Ali!

Author: Sujatha Padmanabhan
Illustrator: Tanushree Roy Paul
Publisher: Eklavya
Publication Year: 2024
Ideal for: 7-9 years
Genre: Fiction

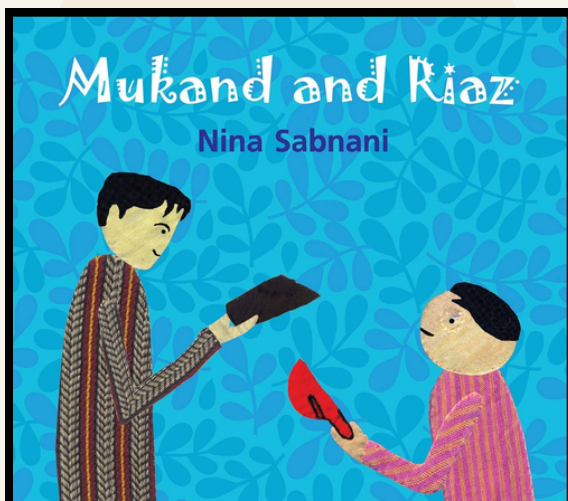
Imagine being a citizen of one country, and one morning waking up in another. That's what happened to Ali, a little boy of three years. Overnight, he is separated from his parents who are stranded on the other side of the border. A kind neighbour takes Ali in and cares for him. As Ali grows up, he wonders about his parents across the border and if he'll ever see them again. A story portraying the partition experiences of Balti people living in Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh and Baltistan region of Gilgit-Baltistan.



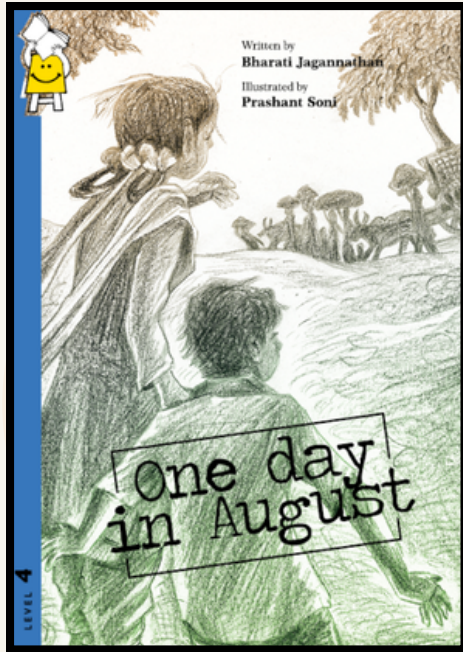
Mukand and Riaz

Author: Nina Sabnani
Illustrator: Nina Sabnani
Publisher: Tulika
Publication Year: 2007
Ideal for: 10-14 years
Genre: Narrative Non Fiction | Memoir

The story is set against the background of the 1947 Partition. But friendship between children knows no barbed wire fencing: all children play games, enjoy ice-cream and feel the loss of friends. This book is about every child's right to friendship and a home. Based on memories of her father, animator Nina Sabnani first made this as a film



Picture Books



One Day in August - *Illustrated Book*

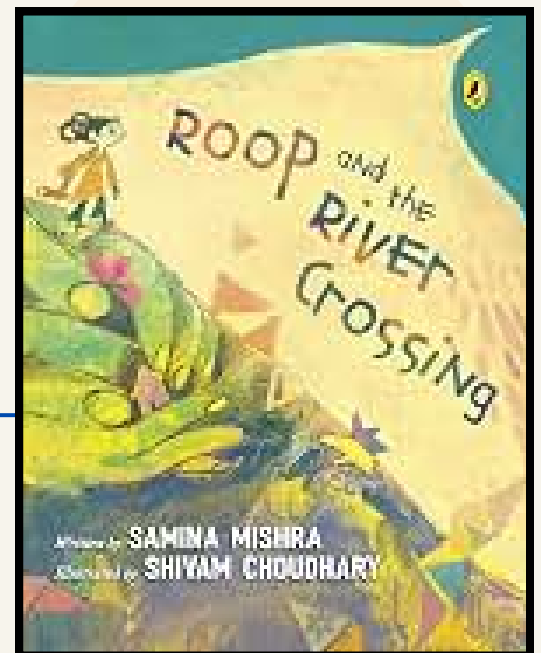
Author: Bharati Jagannathan
Illustrator: Prashant Soni
Publisher: Pratham Books
Publication Year: 2015
Ideal for: 7-9 years
Genre: Historical Fiction

Kishen's cow strays away one day in August, leading him and his friend Shagufta into unknown territory. This gentle story of love, friendship, and the innocent wisdom of childhood is set against a time when the partition of India caused immense loss to millions of people.

Roop and the River Crossing

Author: Samina Mishra
Illustrator: Shivam Choudhary
Publisher: Puffin
Publication Year: 2025
Ideal for: 10-14 years
Genre: Historical Fiction

"Roop carries her newest toy—a kaleidoscope—everywhere. Around her, unfamiliar words echo: India. Pakistan. Partition. Home. Words that sound distant from her reality, until one night changes everything. Roop finds herself at a riverbank, one that she must cross to find her home—her new home.

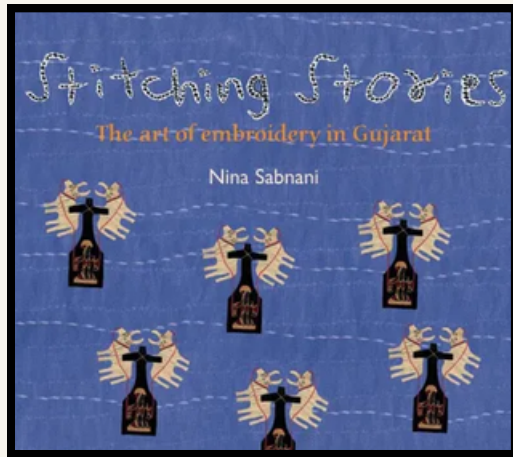


Sheela's Two Homes

Author: Nina Sabnani
Illustrator: Nina Sabnani
Publisher: Tulika
Publication Year: 2025
Ideal for: 7-9 years
Genre: Narrative Non Fiction | Memoir

Sheela grows up in Sukkur, Sind, and lives with her uncle whom she calls father, just across the road from her real parents. The turbulent times in the run up to Independence don't touch her. Till suddenly, there's Partition. TSpringing from yet another animation film by Nina Sabnani, it is her mother's own story, and she uses fragments of cloth, touches of embroidery, to show a life across two countries, with two fathers, in two homes.

Picture Books



Stitching Stories

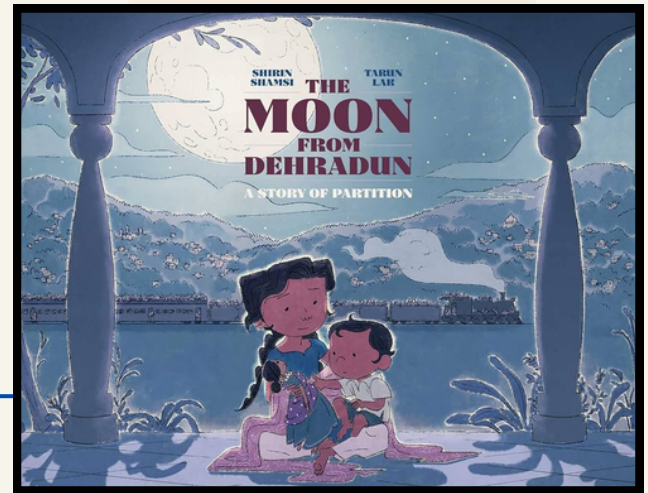
Author: Nina Sabnani
Illustrator: Nina Sabnani
Publisher: Tulika
Publication Year: 2011
Ideal for: 7-9 years
Genre: Narrative Non Fiction

"Before I used to stitch just to make patterns. But now I think about what I want to say through my stitches." Like many others, Raniben has moved beyond beautiful needlework to narrative art, embroidering her own stories. This book has one such story – about how she and her family left their village in Pakistan, crossed the harsh desert to start life again. Based on an award-winning animated documentary film, this gorgeously visual book looks at how an inherited craft has become personalised art.

The Moon from Dehradun

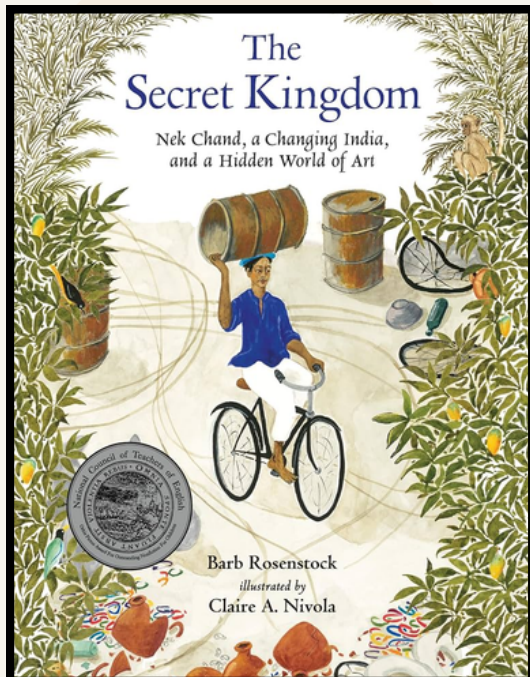
Author: Shirin Shamsi
Illustrator: Tarun Lak
Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers
Publication Year: 2022
Ideal for: 7-9 years
Genre: Historical Fiction

Inspired by the author's family story, the book follows young Azra who has to leave to Pakistan with her family and leaves her doll behind during the journey. It shares a young girl's journey from her old home to a new one, as borders get redrawn and people lose their sense of belonging.



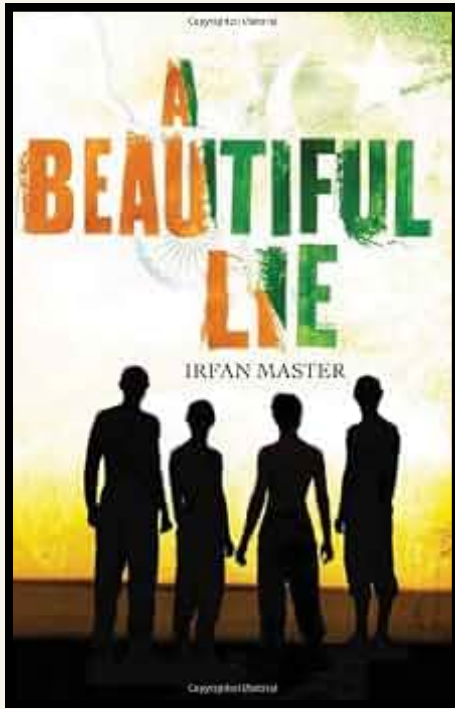
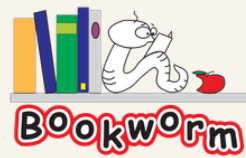
The Secret Kingdom

Author: Barb Rosenstock
Illustrator: Claire A. Nivola
Publisher: Candlewick Press
Publication Year: 2018
Ideal for: 10-14 years
Genre: Narrative Non Fiction | Biography



After the partition, Nek Chand Saini settled in Chandigarh, with nothing but stories brought from his homeland. He begins to collect river rocks, broken glass, and cracked water pots found on the roadside. He cleared a section of jungle and begins to build a tribute to the winding village of his youth. Nek kept his kingdom secret for fifteen years, until a government crew stumbled upon it and sought to destroy it. But local fans agreed in awe: the Rock Garden had to be protected.

Chapter Books



A Beautiful Lie

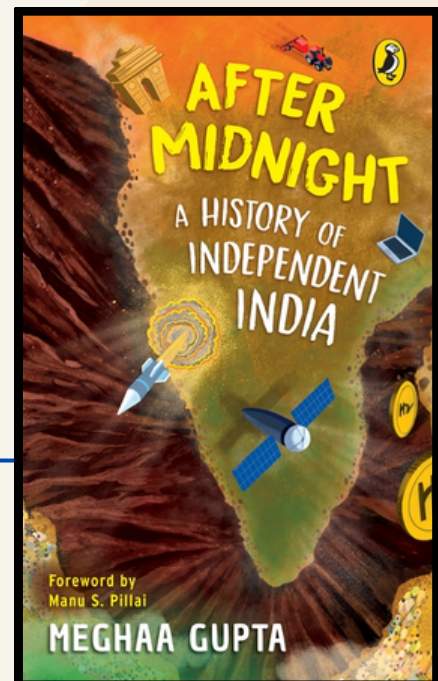
Author: Irfan Master
Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company
Publication Year: 2012
Ideal for: 14+ years
Genre: Historical Fiction

In India in 1947 the country is coming apart--and so is thirteen-year-old Bilal's life. He is determined to protect his dying father from the news of Partition, news that he knows will break his father's heart. With spirit and determination, and with the help of his good friends, Bilal builds an elaborate deception, even printing false pages of the local newspaper to hide the signs of national unrest. All Bilal wants is for his father to die in peace. But that means Bilal has a very complicated relationship with the truth.

After Midnight

Author: Meghaa Gupta
Publisher: Puffin
Publication Year: 2022
Ideal for: 14+ years
Genre: Non Fiction

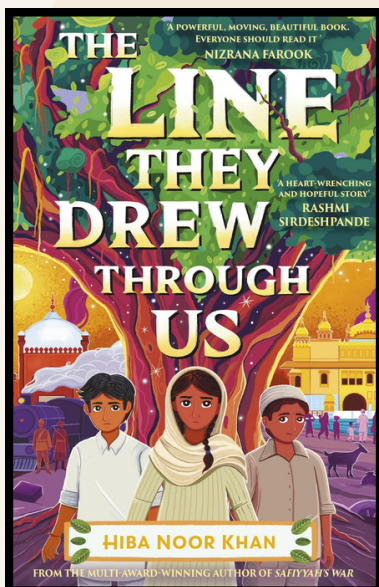
At the time of Independence, few believed that a country made up of British provinces and over 500 princely states could survive as a nation, even for a few years. That a land stripped of its riches, wracked by disease and famine, and divided along tense communal lines could thrive in its aspirations. Yet, in the 75 years since Independence, India has grown beyond anyone's expectation. After Midnight revels in the diverse ideas that have come to shape India and offers a multifaceted context to the present.



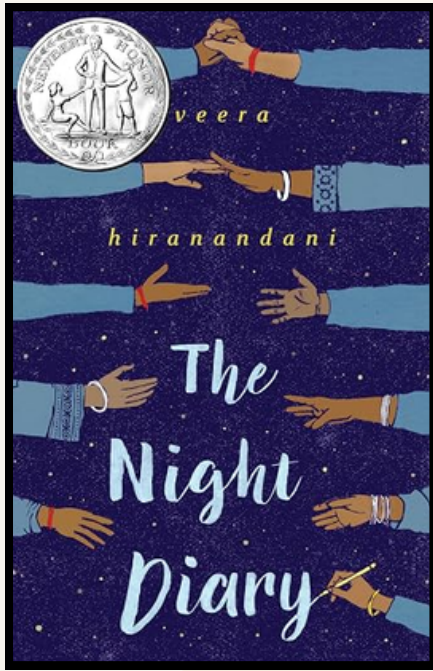
The Line They Drew Through Us

Author: Hiba Noor Khan
Publisher: Andersen Press
Publication Year: 2025
Ideal for: 10-14 years
Genre: Historical Fiction

Three best friends are born on the same day under miraculous circumstances. But by their twelfth birthday, Jahan, Ravi and Lakshmi's lives are about to change forever. The British announce Indian independence and draw lines of Partition that tear apart the country, and the friends. One of them flees, one of them disappears, and the other is left wondering, could a miracle bring them back together?



Chapter Books



The Night Diary

Author: Veera Hiranandani
Publisher: Kokila
Publication Year: 2018
Ideal for: 10-14 years
Genre: Historical Fiction

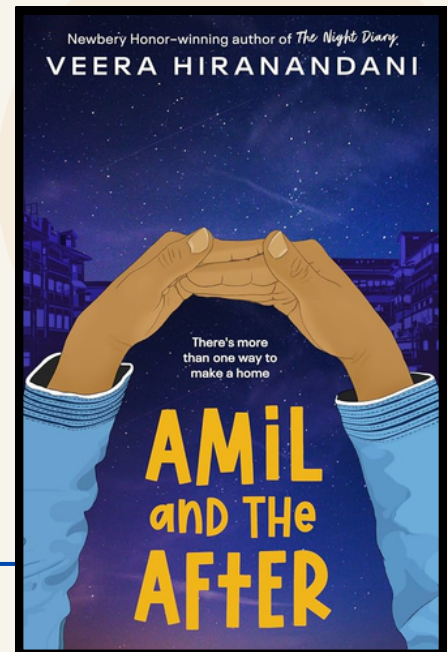
Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore in 1947. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together.

Amil and the After *Companion Novel to the Night Diary*

Author: Veera Hiranandani
Publisher: Kokila
Publication Year: 2024
Ideal for: 10-14 years
Genre: Historical Fiction

Both Muslim and Hindu, the memory of the long and difficult journey from their hometown in what is now Pakistan lives with 12 year-old Amil as he tries to make a home in independent India.

Nisha, his twin sister, suggests that Amil tell his story through drawings meant for their mother, who died when they were babies. Through Amil, readers witness the unwavering spirit of a young boy trying to make sense of a chaotic world, and find hope for himself and a newly reborn nation.



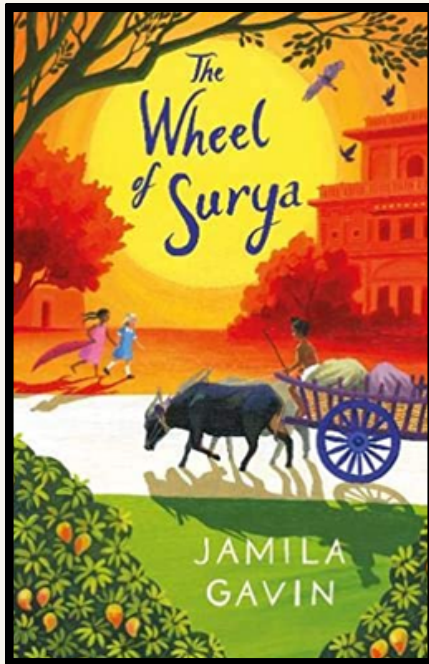
The Partition Project

Author: Saadia Faruqi
Publisher: Quill Tree Books
Publication Year: 2026
Ideal for: 14+ years
Genre: Fiction

When her grandmother comes off the airplane in Houston from Pakistan, Mahnoor knows that having Dadi move in is going to disrupt everything about her life.

As Dadi starts to settle into life in Houston and Maha scrambles for a subject for a project, the two of them start talking. About Dadi's childhood in northern India—and about the Partition that forced her to leave her home and relocate to the newly created Pakistan.





The Wheel of Surya *Trilogy*

Author: Jamila Gavin
Publisher: Farshore
Publication Year: 1992
Ideal for: 14 years and above
Genre: Historical Fiction

Fleeing from their burnt-out village as violence rages in the Punjab, Marvinder and Jaspal are separated from their mother, Jhoti.

Together they escape across India and nearly halfway around the world to England, to find a father they hardly know in a new, hostile culture.

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