



Kids Book Club Kit | Darien Library

Book Uncle and Me by Uma Krishnaswami

Recommended for grades 2 to 3

Summary: Yasmin visits Book Uncle's Lending Library, on a street corner near her apartment building, every day. So when the mayor tries to shut down Book Uncle's library, Yasmin and her friends decide to take action. Even though they're not old enough to vote in the upcoming local election, there's still a lot they can accomplish!



Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever felt too small or helpless to change a situation? Why do you think this is? How does Yasmin's story change your perception of being small and helpless?
2. The book that Book Uncle gives Yasmin is *symbolic*, which means it's a story that represents a bigger idea. How does the story of the doves symbolize the story of Yasmin, Book Uncle and her community? Fairy tales in particular are often symbolic. Can you think of any other examples? Make a list of five common fairy tales. As a group, discuss what you think each one symbolizes.
3. In this story, animals do a lot of things that people do (like making shoes and selling fruit) and some things that animals do (the chickens peck for insects, the snake wants to eat Francis and Rhoda). What do you think about the author choosing to write the story in this way?
4. Think about your local library. How does it work? What services do they offer? Now think about Book Uncle's library. In what ways are the two different? In what ways are they similar?
5. Reeni feels left out when Yasmin doesn't share her stories. Why should people share stories with one another? How might sharing stories create a sense of community? Why might that be important?

Further Resources:

Learn more about India, where the book is set: <https://dar.to/3eGQ238>

Learn about the Little Free Library movement: <https://dar.to/3ew03Qq>

Activities

1. Think about issues you see in your community that you think should be addressed. Ask a grown up for help writing to an appropriate local official who could address the issue. In your letter, introduce yourself as a representative of your community, and explain why this issue is important to you.
2. Yasmin set a goal to read one book a day for the rest of her life. Conduct your own reading challenge! Can you read one book a day for a month? Keep a list of the books you read, and consider sharing reviews of the books with your local librarians.