

Parent Resources

Forbidden

by Anjali Tiwari and Danica da Silva Pereira



10 stories to make a difference

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted that you are interested in sharing **Forbidden** with your child. **Forbidden** is part of our **10 Stories to Make a Difference** collection, which has ten inspiring stories for young readers that celebrate difference and individuality.

Inside these pages you'll find activities inspired by **Forbidden**, for your child to do at home, together with information to help you support your child's wellbeing and learning.

A strong suggestion is to read the book aloud once for the story, then again to focus on particular aspects, passages or themes. The following activities are grouped by desired outcome and are for a range of abilities and additional needs of a child. Some extension activities are included, but all the materials can be adapted beyond the target audience according to the interest and abilities of your child.

The following activities would be suitable for the allocated age group:

- Reading independently or as group **11+ years**
- Exploring through the creative learning activities in this pack **11+ years / KS3**

All the books in our **10 Stories to Make a Difference** collection are beautifully illustrated and perfect for children aged 5 and up. They reflect the need for greater inclusivity and more diversity in children's books with the stories including characters of colour, LGBTQ+ and disabled characters.

The **10 Stories to Make a Difference** collection is available to buy from www.pop-up.org.uk/shop. Teacher and Parent/Carer Resource packs are available to download from www.pop-up.org.uk/shop. This Resource pack is written by Carey Fluker Hunt and published by Pop Up Projects CIC.

Artwork © Danica da Silva Pereira.

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About this resource pack

There are seven sections:

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This pack will help your child:

- talk about their own and other people's feelings
- value themselves and others
- explore ideas around rules and change

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About this book

Set in an imaginary time and place in India, this absorbing story about friendship, cultural taboos and prejudice evokes a vanished world that impacts on events and attitudes today. The story is narrated by Laksh-Lakshmi, who works as a sweeper at the Big House where she meets Ratna, the Sahib's daughter. The two girls form a passionate friendship, but village laws forbid them to associate, and when Ratna's mother discovers the friendship between her daughter and her servants, she does everything she can to destroy their relationship.

A beautiful forest clearing provides a place 'beyond rules' where the girls can dream of happy endings, but although Laksh-Lakshmi tries to change hearts and minds, this is real life, not a fairy tale.

Richly coloured illustrations bring Laksh-Lakshmi's world to life in a vibrant, contemporary style, and words and pictures work together to evoke strong emotions.

About this book's themes

Set in an imaginary time and place in India, this story references aspects of the traditional caste system and addresses important universal themes.

Themes include:

- the importance of friendship
- overcoming differences
- following rules
- being a change-maker
- how the past impacts on the present

About the author and illustrator



This story was informed by **Anjali Tiwari's** experience of rural village life, and was inspired by the work of Munshi Premchand, whose books address social issues including poverty, oppression and the caste system. Written when Anjali was 16 and still studying at High School in India, **Forbidden** was selected as one of the winners in Pop Up's tenth birthday writing competition.



Born in Goa and now living in the UK, **Danica da Silva Pereira** worked as a graphic designer before completing an MA in Children's Book Illustration, and continues to be inspired by her ethnic culture for her illustrative work.

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Arty starter: picturing a special place

"The meadow, where our differences did not exist, and where we dared to hope..."
page 26

Look at this picture and ask your child to describe what they can see. What would it be like to stand in this meadow? What would you be able to hear and smell?

Ask your child where the light is coming from, and how it illuminates this scene. Note how the trees and plants border an empty space, and how the girls and the animals lead our eye towards it.

How does your child think Laksh-Lakshmi and Ratna feel about this place? What do they think is going to happen here?

Support your child as they create a picture of a forest meadow by suggesting they draw trees at both sides of their paper and add grass and plants along the bottom, like Danica. What could your child draw in the middle of the clearing to make this a special place of friendship and hope? Come up with ideas together, but encourage your child to make the final choice.



The Forest meadow, p. 22-23

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Thinking and talking: obey the rules or be a change-maker?

Ask your child what is forbidden in this story, and why.

Talk about Laksh-Laskshmi and Ratna's understanding of what they are allowed to do.

Who sets the rules that govern them? What impact do these rules have on Laksh-Lakshmi and Ratna?

Encourage your child to think critically by evaluating what's said in the text, as well as what is shown in the artwork, and come up with many possible answers. Remember that these rules may have more impact on one character than another.

How do Laksh-Lakshmi and Ratna challenge the rules? What happens as a result? Why does your child think Laksh-Lakshmi is unable to change other people's minds?

Talk to your child about rules. What are your child and their friends not allowed to do? Who creates and enforces these rules? Some things may be forbidden by a school, for example, while others may be against the law. And some things may feel impossible because of social expectations or peer pressure.

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Taking it further: imagining a different future

Anjali says that she could have written a happy ending for this story but chose not to, because “real life isn’t a fairytale.” Without power, allies or a better plan, the odds were always stacked against Laksh-Lakshmi, so it isn’t surprising that things end sadly.

“Even if it’s a lifetime before I see her. Even if it’s in another world...” page 26

Read this quote together and talk about what Laksh-Lakshmi means

The book doesn’t tell us what happens to Laksh-Lakshmi in the future, and this quote from the final page hints that things could have turned out differently in “another world”.

Thinking about what happens next - or how a story could be changed - helps children understand the plot and characters, and gives them a framework to write in.

Perhaps Laksh-Lakshmi’s experiences make her want to fight for justice in another way?

- Your child could write or tell her story as a sequel to this book.

Or maybe, in Laksh-Lakshmi’s “other story-world” things worked out differently?

- Your child could write to tell Laksh-Lakshmi and Ratna’s story as an alternative version of this book.



The Forest meadow, p.25

Extend this activity by talking about campaigning for change in real life. What would your child like to change, and why? How could they go about it?

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Word Search

Help your child look for the following words and ideas from the story.

They're all about:

- friendship
- challenging the status quo
- creating change

Support your child by

- discussing what each word means, and how these ideas are important in this book.

Forbidden	Controlled	Outraged	Foolish	Bridged
Nuisance	Trust	Disbelief	Elders	Arranged
Hope	Supposed	Anger	Unnatural	Unspoken
Invisible	Reality	Courage	Bewildered	Dreams

E	U	Y	O	N	F	C	D	E	I	F	C	D	F
L	N	A	U	N	S	P	O	K	E	N	O	E	O
R	N	R	B	R	N	I	F	R	D	B	U	L	O
D	A	R	A	U	D	N	G	E	I	E	R	L	L
R	T	A	E	S	I	E	O	A	N	W	A	O	I
E	U	N	R	L	S	D	D	L	V	I	G	R	S
A	R	G	E	O	B	D	E	I	I	L	E	T	H
M	A	E	G	T	E	I	S	T	S	D	B	N	S
S	L	D	N	R	L	B	O	Y	I	E	R	O	R
E	D	E	A	U	I	R	P	R	B	R	I	C	E
R	C	P	E	S	E	O	P	F	L	E	D	P	D
E	T	O	A	T	F	F	U	A	E	D	G	Y	L
C	D	H	I	N	U	I	S	A	N	C	E	E	E
C	I	O	U	T	R	A	G	E	D	S	D	U	C

7 Glossary

Refuge: a place that protects from danger or difficulty.

Freedom: the state of being free to act or move as one wishes.

Status Quo: the existing state; conditions as they are at a given time.

Caste System: a social structure in which one's class in society is determined by heredity.

Taboo: a ban on a subject, action, or behavior.

Prejudice: hatred or unfair treatment toward a person or group without cause or reason. Prejudice is often directed toward people of a certain race or religion.

10 stories to make a difference

Forbidden is part of a collection of ten inspiring stories for young readers that celebrate difference and individuality.

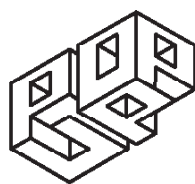
All the books in our **10 Stories to Make a Difference** collection are beautifully illustrated and perfect for children, aged 5 and up.



Each of the books is an exciting collaboration between well-known and emerging writers and illustrators, giving a platform to bold new voices.

We believe that all children should be able to find themselves, and discover others, through the stories they read. We therefore hope that these amazing stories will entertain and inspire the young readers in your lives.

Enjoy and feel free to get in touch with us at info@pop-up.org.uk.
We always love to hear from our readers!



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