



Telling Tales

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

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Our thanks to the following partners who made this program possible.





GENIE MEANIE

BY MAHTAB NARSIMHAN

Ages: 6-8 | 2021, Orca Book Publishers | **ISBN:** 9781459823983

Mahtab Narsimhan is an award-winning author with numerous critically acclaimed books including *The Third Eye*, which won the Silver Birch Fiction Award. She is inspired by the desire to make sense of the world through stories and is deeply committed to representing diversity in her books.

In *Genie Meanie*, eight-year-old Kiara can't believe her luck when her much-loved Gran leaves her a genie in a bottle of garam masala! She hopes the magic inside can help navigate third grade and, most especially, protect her from a certain bully she's been worrying about all summer. But when Zayn, the genie, abruptly decides he's going on vacation Kiara discovers her own special kind of "magic"!

Q. Mahtab Narsimhan's story begins with the idea of wishes solving all your problems. Kiara believes the perfect solution to her situation would be to have a genie in her corner fighting all of her battles. If we put wishes aside though, what are some other ways to work through this problem?

Activity: In the video we see Kiara looking at her reflection and hearing a voice in her head that sounds like Matt, the bully at school. Is there a way she could change her thoughts or try to use different words to answer that voice? Think about a time when you were afraid or felt worried – maybe it's before the first day of school or facing something big in your life that gives you a stomachache. Now create and share an affirmation someone could use to "fight" against these worries and doubts.



Reflection: Kiara says her Gran always encouraged her to stand up for herself. "Never give up trying to do the right thing, no matter how hard it is", she would say, "But try not to hurt anyone either." Kiara is inspired by these words. Why is it sometimes hard to do the right thing?

Bonus Activity: Kiara's Gran left her a box of treasures including Zayn's spice bottle. Initially she sees this gift as junk but each item was selected with something special in mind for Kiara. Can you create a box of 5 items that would say something about you? What items would you choose?



ACTIVITY SHEET



ACTIVITY SHEET



This is a decorative worksheet template. It features a border of stylized leaves and flowers. At the top left, the words "ACTIVITY SHEET" are written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this title is a large rectangular area outlined with a dotted line, intended for a drawing. Underneath the dotted box are ten horizontal solid lines for writing. In the bottom left corner, there is a small illustration of a flower with a bee flying towards it.