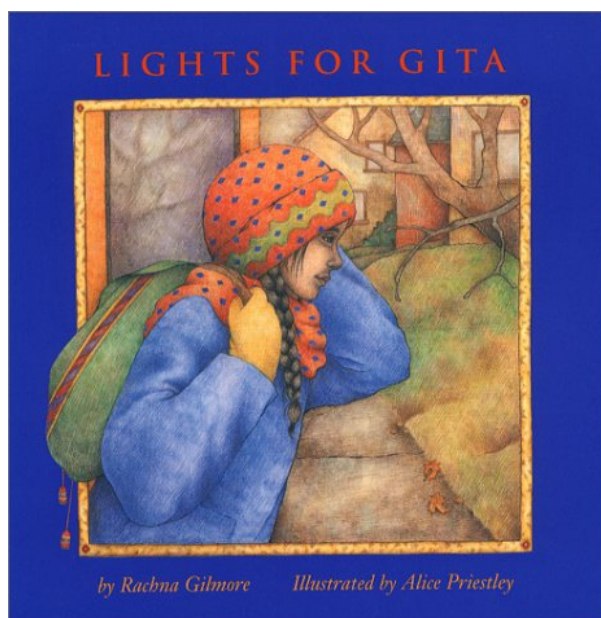


LIGHTS FOR GITA BY RACHNA GILMORE



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LIGHTS FOR GITA



by Rachna Gilmore *Illustrated by Alice Priestley*

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From Publishers Weekly

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Review

"...Her parents and an American friend help Gita turn disappointment into a new understanding of 'filling the darkness with light.'" -- Yellow Brick Road

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"...explores one incident in the life of an immigrant child and makes from simple material a rich and resonant story....all comes together at the end to show what is familiar to us all, what makes us all insiders: family, friendship, and the need for celebration."

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Gita has recently moved to America from India, and she is looking forward to celebrating Divali her favorite holiday with her family. She has invited some of her new friends from school to join in the festivities, but a winter storm puts a damper on her plans. Just as Gita decides she hates her new home, events take another turn. Beautifully illustrated with warm, radiant paintings. AWARD: Pick of the List (American Bookseller, 1995)

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

I would have loved to give it five stars

By Arie Farnam

This story almost has it all. I would have loved to give it five stars. It is well written, engaging with a good plot for such a small children's book. It has beautiful illustrations that children can relate to. It is a wonderful holiday story and much needed to show some diversity in holidays. The part that gets it four stars instead of five is that the girl's origins and background isn't well explained in the beginning. It is hinted at but not enough for small children to understand. If it were stated outright and the holiday slightly explained in the beginning, it would help children who don't know the tradition and it would be affirming for those who do.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A new immigrant girl learns that the lights inside her are more important than fireworks and festivities

By Carol Simon Levin

Beautiful introduction to the holiday of Diwali. I used it in a storytime called "Holiday Lights" [...] and it was very well received by the Kdg-3rd graders. I like how it addresses the universal themes of homesickness and moving to a new place and it is especially useful in our community which has a sizeable South Asian population.

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

Good to read to school. Nice introduction.

By Lady

A nice story with illustrations although it does not give the kind of detail that my children & I crave. I paraphrased it, using the pictures, for a group of 3 - 6 year olds at school and they liked it. An easy introduction to Diwali for them. Then I showed them a few things, including a clay oil lamp and we had Indian sweets. For pictures of a more traditional celebration and those details, use the 2 page spread in "Children Just Like Me: Celebrations!".

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