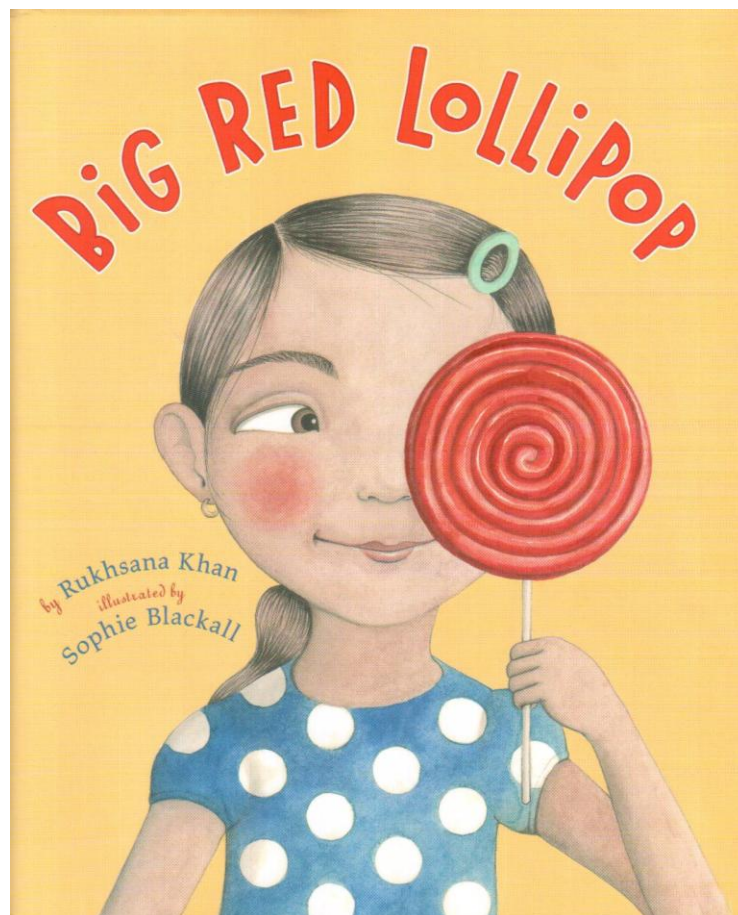


Big Red Lollipop

Teacher's Guide for Grades K-3

With Student Activity Sheet



by Rukhsana Khan
www.rukhsanakhan.com

About Rukhsana Khan

Rukhsana has been writing seriously since 1989 with, at this point, twelve books published, several of which have been nominated and/or won various awards. Along the way she also became a storyteller and has performed at numerous festivals. For more information on Rukhsana and her books please see her website: www.rukhsanakhan.com



Rukhsana was born in Lahore, Pakistan and immigrated to Canada, with her family, at the age of three. She began by writing for community magazines and went on to write songs and stories for the Adam's World children's videos. Rukhsana is a member of SCBWI, The Writers Union of Canada, CANSCAIP, and Storytelling Toronto. She lives in Toronto with her husband and family. Rukhsana has four children, three girls and a boy and ten grandchildren.

To see the video book talk/tutorials for [Big Red Lollipop](#) and other titles, check out [Rukhsana's Youtube channel](#) <https://www.youtube.com/user/MsRukhsanaKhan>

Books by Rukhsana:

Big Red Lollipop

Wanting Mor

A New Life

Many Windows

Silly Chicken

Ruler of the Courtyard

The Roses in My Carpets

Muslim Child







King of the Skies

Bedtime Ba-a-a-lk



Dahling if You Luv Me Would You Please Please Smile

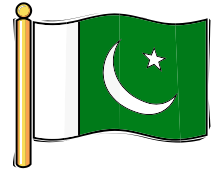
The following curriculum applications are fulfilled by the discussion topics and activities outlined in this teacher's guide:

| Legend | |
|---|--|
|  writing applications |  character applications |
|  visual art applications |  Social Studies |
|  drama applications |  Music |

Discussion topics and Activities before Reading the Book:

Grades K – 3:

- Look at the cover. What do you think the story will be about?
- This is an immigrant story. The girl on the cover comes from Pakistan, and that fact is important to the story.
- Find Pakistan, and then Lahore on a map.
- Find pictures of people in Pakistan. What kind of customs do you think they have?
- Does anyone know what the weather would be like over there compared to here?
Would it be hotter or cooler?
- Do you think they celebrate the same things people here celebrate?
- How would it feel coming to a different country?
- Look at the circle designs on the end pages. (The end pages of a book are



the two pages before and after the story that are glued to the binding. They often incorporate extra design elements in a book. In *Big Red Lollipop* the artist, Sophie Blackall, has chosen to include circle designs of ‘swatches’ that the characters in the story will wear as clothes.)



- Look for the circle designs in the clothes the people in the story are wearing.
- What kind of clothes do they wear in Pakistan? (shalwar kameez)
- What kinds of foods do they eat there?
- Have you tasted any foods from there?
- If there are any students from Pakistan in the class, perhaps they could bring in objects from there: clothes, food, or musical instruments.
- Apparently Sophie Blackall really likes whales. Search for any hidden whales in the illustrations. (There is a whale in the swimming pool on the first page and a whale magnet on the fridge.)

Discussion topics and Activities after Reading the Book:

Grades K – 3:

Discussion topics:

- How can you tell the family is from Pakistan?
- Why do you suppose the mother (Ami) wears Pakistani clothes but her daughters don't?
- Color the picture of a shalwar kameez on page 9. (Remember to add in some decorations especially at the neck and sleeves.)
- Where does this story place? Could it happen where you live?



Go to [Teachingbooks.com](https://www.teachingbooks.com) and search *Big Red Lollipop*. You will find an audio recording of the author speaking about the inspiration for this story. Share it with the class.

- Which of the characters do you like best? Why?
- Which of the characters is the nicest? Why?
- Which characters do you feel sorry for? Why?
- Why does Rubina know more than Ami about the customs of their new country?
- What other celebrations that are common where you live, might Ami not be aware of?
- When it was Sana's turn to go to the party, what did you expect would happen?
- Why do you think Rubina told Ami not to make Sana take little Maryam to the party Sana was invited to? If you were Rubina, would you have done that?
- Rubina had a choice. She could have had revenge. If Rubina had kept quiet Sana would have had to take little Maryam to the party. How would the story have been different if she had done that? What would you have done if that happened to you?
- How would the story be different if Sana did not give the green lollipop to Rubina? What if she ate that one too?
- What would you do if it were you?
- How would the story be different if Rubina had slammed the door in Sana's face before Sana could have given her the green lollipop?
- Some stories end in the same way they started out. They are called circular stories. Is *Big Red Lollipop* a circular story? (Answer: Yes!)
- What other circular stories can you think of?
- How would the story be different if told through Maryam's point of view?
- Why do you think Sana left the triangle piece of lollipop in the fridge?
- How would the story be different if Sana were telling the story?





- Look at the author's name on the cover of the book. Do you see any similarities to any of the names of the characters in the story?
- Look at the dedication and the back jacket copy with biographical information about the author. Do you think this is based on a true story? If it is based on a true story, which character do you think the author is?

(Answer: It based on a true story. The author is Sana in real life.)

- The author tells her (Sana's) version of the story in a video online. You can find the video either at youtube here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8UQWdhhy8s> or if youtube is not accessible at your school, go to her blog:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=N8UQWdhhy8s Or here: <http://blog.rukhsanakhan.com/1519/lollipops-and-persian-folktales/>

- As a class, watch the video.
- How does knowing that the book is based on a 'true' story affect the way you feel about the book?
- Now we have two different versions of the same story. How is Rubina's version of the story different from Sana's?
- What big piece of Sana's story is missing from the book? (Answer: the part when Sana is watching cartoons and trying not to eat the lollipop)
- Why is that part of the story missing from the book?
- What part of Rubina's story is missing from Sana's story?
- Why didn't Rukhsana tell that part of the story?
- Are there any other parts of the story that different? Why do you think they're different?



Activities:

Grades K - 3

1. Draw a picture of your favorite part of the story. 
2. What are things that you may have been tempted by ie. a sister's piece of cake, a brother's stick of gum, etc.
3. Write a story of what happened. Did you give in to the temptation? And if you did, did you get away with being greedy? How was the situation resolved?
4. Create a big lollipop using a paper plate and straw. Color and decorate the paper plate, attach it to the straw. 
5. Barbara Auerbach wrote an article about using the author's books in the classroom on School Library Journal here:

<http://www.slj.com/2014/04/standards/curriculum-connections/silly-chickens-and-red-lollipops-rukhsana-khan-an-author-to-study/>

6. She relates a charming finger play rhyme you can do with the students:

"Four lollipops for me to pick.

I pick the red one and lick, lick, lick.

I lick slow, and I lick quick.

Now all that's left is a sticky stick.

Ick!"

Count down to zero choosing other flavors such as green, orange or purple.

The final line is: "No lollipops for me to pick.

That's okay, cause I feel sick!

Ick!"



Activities

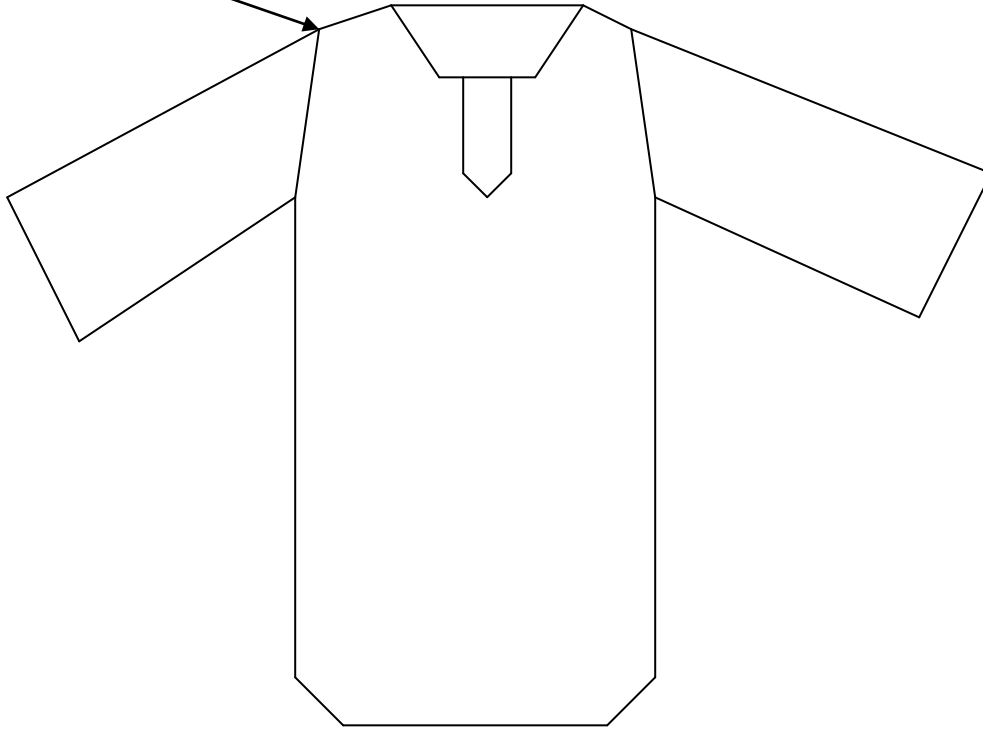
Grades 2- 3

7. Think of a time when you and a sibling had different versions of something that happened. Write about what happened from your point of view. Then write the story from your sibling's point of view.
8. Make an idea journal. Create a small notebook and carry it around with you. When you get an idea, write it down. Maybe you can grow that idea into a story.
9. Act out the story of *Big Red Lollipop*. Make sure you are careful in the part when Rubina is chasing Sana around.
10. Write a song or chant about red lollipops or any other kind of tempting treat that would go well with this story.

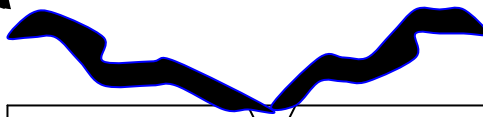


Student Activity Sheet: Color the Picture

Kameez



Nala (Drawstring)



Shalwar

