

## **Teacher's Discussion Guide: Project Bollywood**

**By Mahtab Narsimhan**

**Synopsis:** *Project Bollywood* follows Salman, a middle-grade student passionate about Bollywood films who struggles with collaboration and cultural authenticity when creating a school film project. Through conflicts with his group members, Salman learns valuable lessons about teamwork, representation, and respecting different perspectives.

### **Pre-Reading Activities**

Students explore their prior knowledge of Bollywood cinema and discuss what makes effective group collaboration. Have them brainstorm challenges they've faced in group projects and strategies for overcoming them.

### **Discussion Questions by Chapter**

#### **Opening Chapters:**

- What motivates Salman's excitement about the film project?
- How do Salman's initial ideas reflect his understanding of Bollywood?
- What early signs of conflict appear within the group?

#### **Middle Chapters:**

- How do other group members respond to Salman's vision?
- What specific concerns do they raise about his script?
- How does Salman handle criticism of his ideas?

#### **Resolution:**

- What compromises does Salman make?
- How does the group find common ground?
- What has Salman learned by the story's end?

### **Key Themes and Curriculum Connections**

#### **English Language Arts:**

- Character development and motivation analysis
- Creative writing and script development
- Dialogue and conflict in narrative
- Media literacy and representation



### **Social Studies:**

- Cultural identity and heritage
- Immigration experiences and community
- Media representation and stereotypes
- Global perspectives on entertainment

### **Arts Education:**

- Film production basics
- Performance and presentation skills
- Cultural arts traditions
- Collaborative creative processes

### **Social-Emotional Learning:**

- Conflict resolution strategies
- Empathy and perspective-taking
- Leadership and teamwork
- Cultural sensitivity and respect

### **Extension Activities**

- **Create Alternative Scripts:** Students work in groups to rewrite scenes from the book, focusing on authentic cultural representation and collaborative decision-making.
- **Bollywood Film Festival:** Research and present different aspects of Bollywood cinema, exploring its history, themes, and cultural significance.
- **Conflict Resolution Workshop:** Role-play scenarios from the book and practice healthy communication strategies for group disagreements.
- **Cultural Heritage Projects:** Students create presentations about their own cultural backgrounds or research cultures different from their own.

### **Assessment Opportunities**

- Group collaboration rubrics based on the book's lessons
- Creative writing assignments exploring cultural identity
- Reflection essays on personal growth and teamwork
- Presentation skills through film pitch activities

### **Cross-Curricular Connections**

This novel works well alongside units on immigration, cultural diversity, media studies, and creative arts. It pairs effectively with other middle-grade books exploring cultural identity and friendship dynamics.