

MISSION MUMBAI

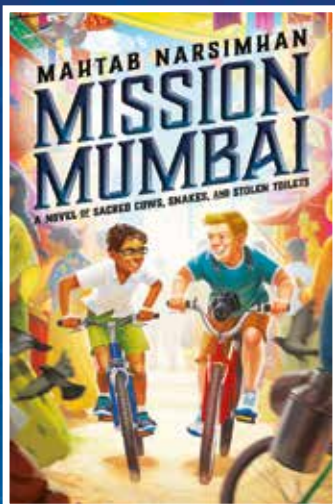
..... DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Dylan and Rohit are different in many ways but they are still good friends. What do they have in common? How can differences actually make a friendship stronger?
- 2) Do you think the boys envy each other and want what the other has? Why or why not?
- 3) If you had to choose between Dylan's life and Rohit's life, which would you choose? Having a family with a lot of money, or the love of a big family? Why?
- 4) Can money buy happiness? Explain your reasoning.
- 5) Why is a cow considered sacred in India? Do you know of any other animals or objects that are considered sacred by other cultures?
- 6) Was Rohit justified in disrespecting his Bua? Should kids respect their elders no matter what? Is respect a one-way street?
- 7) Shakuntala advises Dylan he should "forgive and forget. Sometimes it's the only thing in your control." What did she mean by that?
- 8) Think of a time in the book when Dylan was "banned" from a certain activity. Why do you think that happened? What could he have done differently? Have you ever been told you could not do something? How did you react?
- 9) If you were Dylan and faced with living for three weeks in India, or any country you were unfamiliar with, would you be able to cope? Do you think getting out of your comfort zone is good for you? Why or why not? What could you do beforehand or during such a visit to cope better?
- 10) What do you think of Rafiq? Is he a character to be pitied or should he be locked away forever?
- 11) Dylan makes a lot of "mental" notes to self. What is he trying to do?
- 12) Dylan loves trying out new foods in India. What new or unusual foods have you tried recently?
- 13) Why is Dylan passionate about photography? Why is it so important to Dylan that he win the National Geographic photo prize?
- 14) Why do people have a hobby? What hobbies do you have?

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..... ACTIVITIES

- 1) You've invited your best friend for dinner. Design a menu that includes foods you both enjoy eating—but it must comprise an appetizer, a main course, and dessert. Include a small description or drawing of each, if you like.
- 2) Dylan and Rohit think of themselves as the Sam and Frodo of Cedarbrae High. Which favourite book or other media character do you identify with? What are the similarities and differences between you and your favourite character?
- 3) Who is your ideal friend? Is it one who always agrees with you or disagrees, or a bit of both? Write a short essay on what friendship means to you.
- 4) Take a walk with your parent or friend to a favourite spot; it could be a park, somewhere in your neighbourhood, or even your own backyard. Agree on an object or scene to photograph. Afterwards, compare your pictures. What worked? What didn't work? What makes a good photograph? Did any of the other person's shots make you see something in a new way?
- 5) Try making a butter chicken pizza and mango lassi, based on the recipes provided in the Recipe Sheet. Please ask an adult to help as some steps include using knives and the oven.



..... MAHTAB NARSIMHAN

is the author of several critically acclaimed books, including Silver Birch Award winner *The Third Eye*. Her novel *The Tiffin* was nominated for numerous awards and was recently published in the United Kingdom and Taiwan. Mahtab is a native of Mumbai, India, and lives in Toronto.