

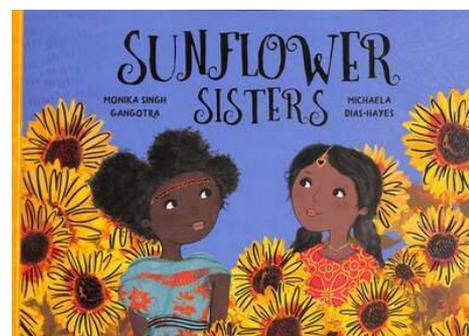
Little Rebels Exploring Social Justice

Sunflower Sisters

by **Monika Singh Gangotra**

illustrated by **Michaela Dias-Hayes**

Owlet Press



Amrita's sister, Jas, is getting married and the whole family are in full-prep mode. There are outdoor fairy lights to string up and special lehengas to be picked out. But why does Auntie keep murmuring about Amrita's and Jas' dark complexions... recommending they drink saffron and stay out of the sun? Amrita wants to stand tall and beam bright like a sunflower. Best friend, Kiki, wants to dazzle in vibrant colours as well! Will their radiance overcome their elders' prejudices?

Shortlisted for the 2022 Little Rebels Book Award

Social Justice Themes: Racism; Colourism; Diversity; Equal Treatment

Things to talk about

- Auntie tells Amrita to "...come on in out of the sun - you don't want to get a tan before the wedding." Why does she say this and why do you think Dad shakes his head?
- Amrita chooses to wear yellow because it makes her happy despite what Auntie says. Is it ok for other people to make comments about your appearance? How would you feel?
- Auntie has been very critical of Amrita in this story. Do you think she changes her opinions and if so why?
- Best friends Amrita and Kiki make one another the promise that they will feel like sunflowers every day. What do you think the promise means?
- Look at the images on pages 21/22. What story do you think it tells?

Activities

- Draw your own spread like the images on pages 21/22 using friendship as the theme. Tell your own unique story.

Extended

- The end notes explain what colourism is. Actress Lupita Nyong'o referred to colourism as 'the daughter of racism'. Can you find out what she meant by this?

For more information about The Little Rebels Book Award visit littlerebels.org