



# Veera Hiranandani



Read to Succeed Buffalo



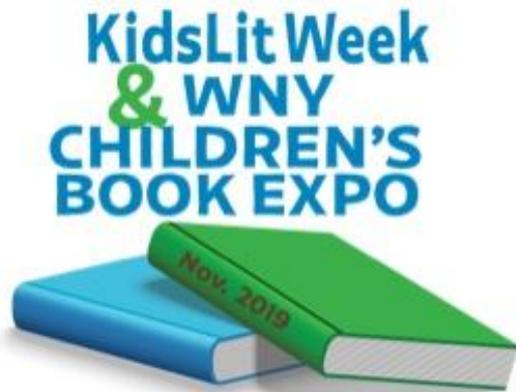
WNYCBE 2019 Author Study Visit Presentation  
By: Matthew Radman and Allison Warren  
Medaille College

# Service Learning Project

This author presentation was created as a service learning project for the Buffalo Public Schools by Medaille College graduate students taking EDU 571: Technology for Elementary Teacher under the guidance of Mary Beth Scumaci. The collaboration also includes Read to Succeed Buffalo & Monkey See Monkey Do Bookstore. Project facilitation was lead by Allison Scumaci, volunteer for the WNYCBE and student of William Smith College. It is our intent that it will assist teachers, media specialists, students and their families in preparing for the author visit to their school.

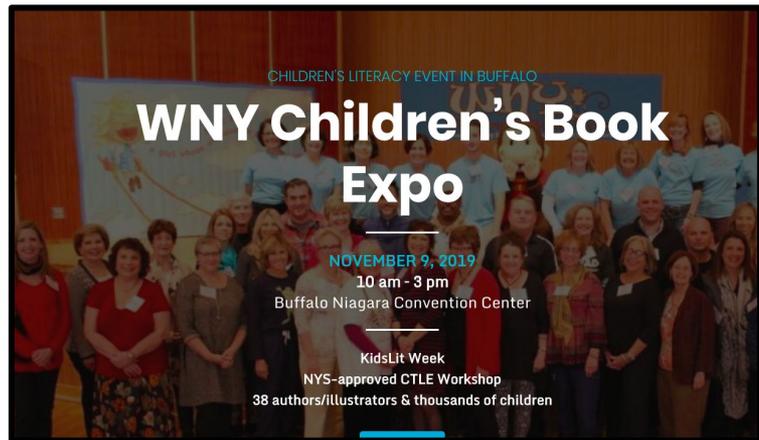
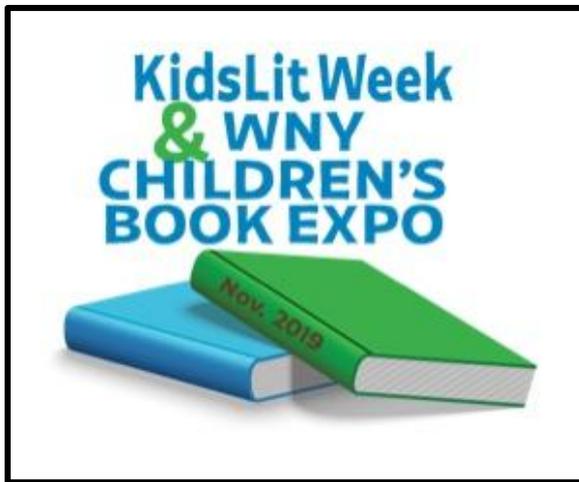


Meet **Veera Hiranandani** at the  
WNY Children's Book Expo



Saturday, November 9th  
Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center

# Western New York Book Expo



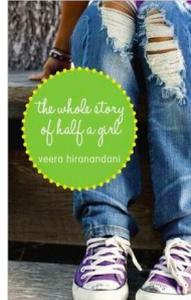
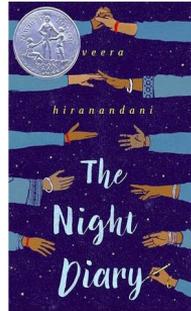
Click here for a video recap of the WNY Children's Book Expo!



Click here to access the WNY Children's Book Expo website

# About Veera Hiranandani

- Raised in a small town in Connecticut
- Became an author because of her childhood experiences. She was shy, and as a result, observed people and her surroundings.



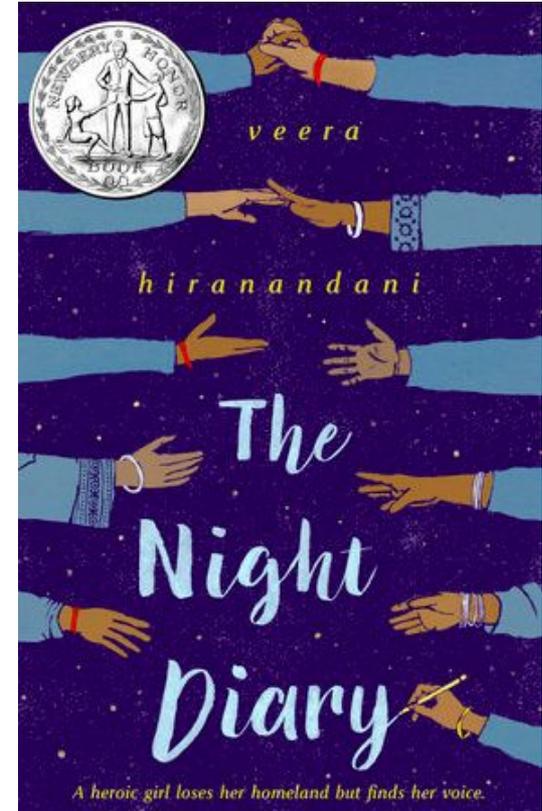
# Fun Facts about Veera Hiranandani

- Her mother is Jewish-American and her father is Hindu
- Her favourite comfort foods are matzo ball soup and samosas
- She loves baking, cooking and reading books about food
- Food helped her to connect with both sides of her family
- She graduated from George Washington University
- She studied fiction writing at Sarah Lawrence College
- She was a children's book editor
- Her book, *The Night Diary*, was inspired by her father's experiences during the Partition of India in 1947
- She teaches creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College
- She lives in New York with her family

# Book Summary - Veera Hiranandani

Written in a diary as letters to her deceased Mama, Nisha shares how her life is turned upside down when the British rule of India ends in 1947, splitting the country into two. Nisha is living in the North which becomes primarily Muslim and is renamed Pakistan. The South becomes predominantly Hindu and is still called India. Even though Nisha's mom was Muslim, due to prejudices and mob-mentality, Nisha and her family are forced to leave their home in the north because they are half Hindu. It's a harrowing journey and confusing time.

- Imagination Soup

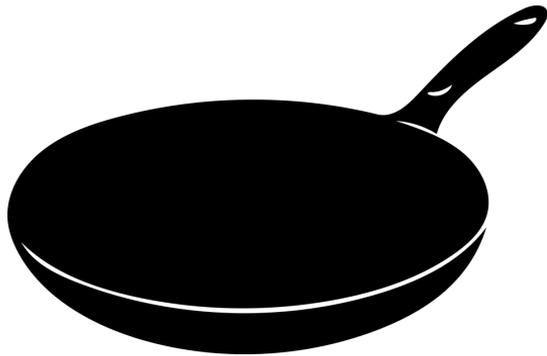


*Author, teacher, speaker*  
*Veera Hiranandani*

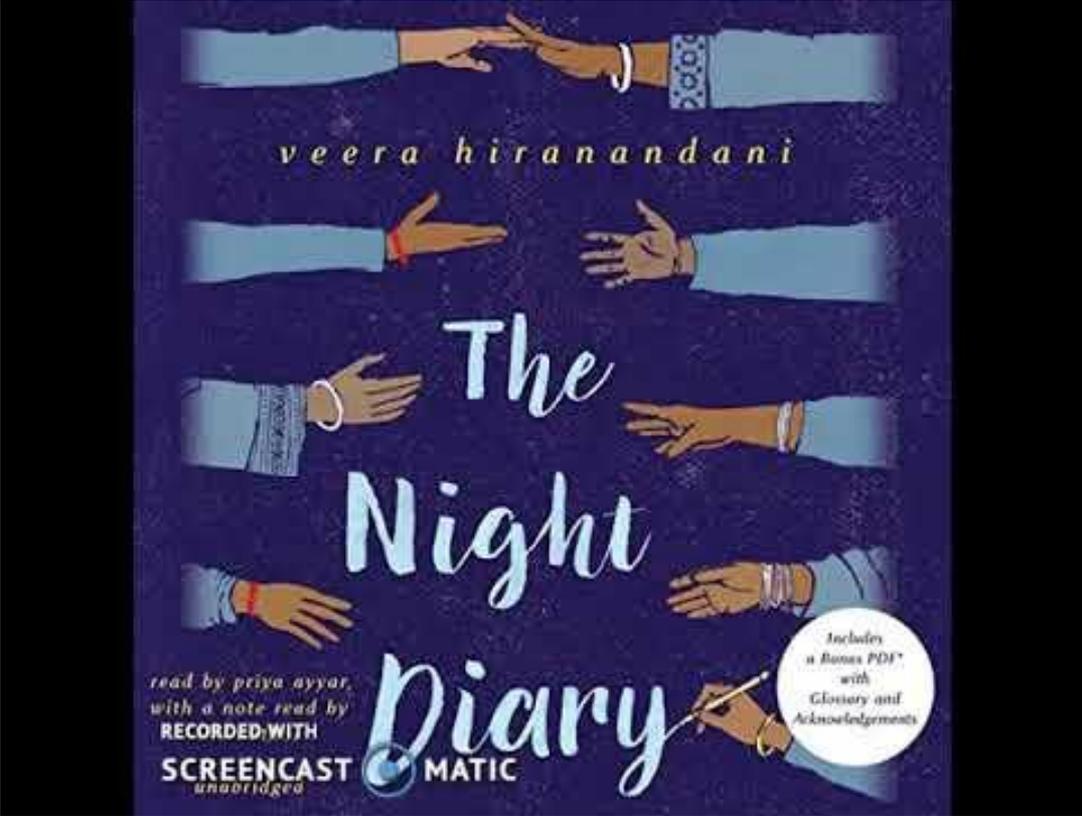


Click the picture to check out Veera's fun blog!

Not only can she write some awesome books, she can also cook! Check out this episode of *Storymakers in the Kitchen*, starring our author of focus, Veera Hiranandani!



# Book Teaser!



# Awards/Recognition of Veera Hiranandani

Veera's very successful book, *The Night Diary*, has received many awards and recognitions such as:

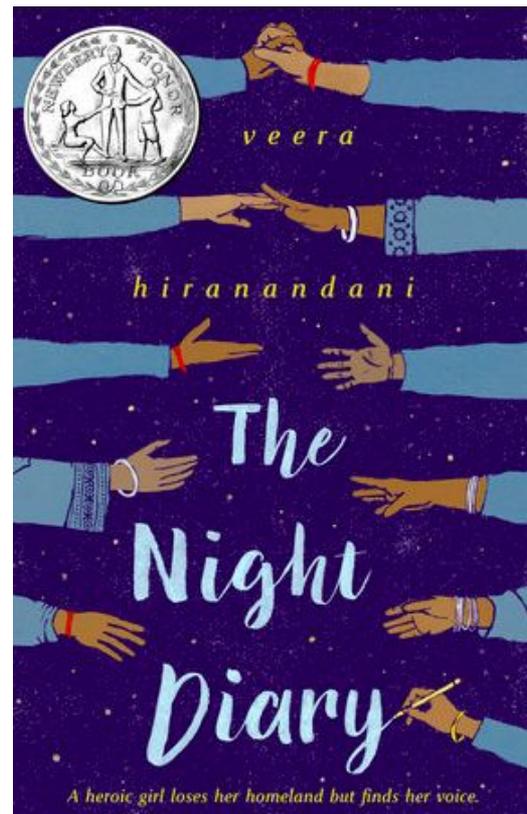
*2019 Newbery Honor Award Winner:*

*Walter Dean Myers Honor:*

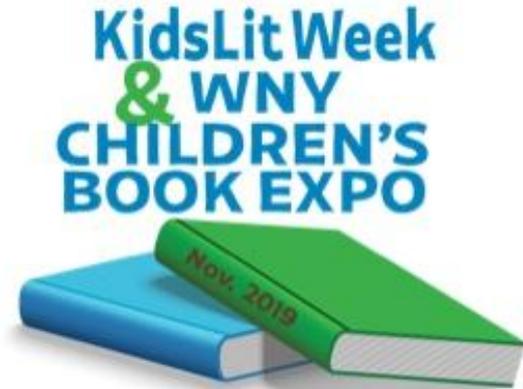
*Malka Pen Award for Human Rights in Children's Literature:*

*Jane Addams Children's Book Award Honor Selection*

*2018 Best Book of Year by The New York Times, The Washington Post, NPR, Amazon, and more.*



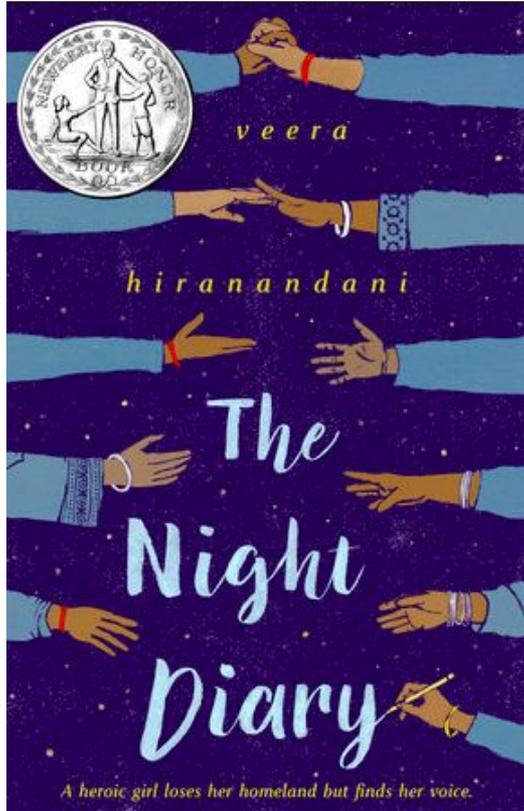
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# Resources & Lesson Ideas for Educators

## ← *The Night Diary* Discussion questions



1. Why is it easier for Nisha to share her thoughts and feelings through a diary than through talking? Do you identify with this? How or how not?
2. Describe Nisha and Amil's life in Mirpur Khas. How is this similar to your daily routine? (For example, do you have an in-home cook or live with your grandparents?)
3. Food and cooking play a critical role in this story. How does food bring people together? Why is cooking so meaningful to Nisha? What activity brings you joy and peace like cooking brings her?
4. Discuss the journey that Nisha and her family made to Rashid Uncle's house then on to India. What seemed like the hardest parts to you? Put yourselves in Nisha's shoes and consider how you would act on this journey.
5. Nisha asks, "Is it the brain that makes me quiet sometimes, that makes Amil see letters every which way? Is it the brain that makes people love and hate? Or is it the heart?" What do you think Nisha is saying here? Discuss what this quote means to you.
6. Why is Nisha upset when she learns that she has an aunt and uncle on her mother's side of the family that she never knew about? How does she react to meeting Rashid Uncle? How is Nisha similar to and different from him?

# The Night Diary Vocabulary Word Search

C O L L A P S E D A  
P V K E R C H I E F  
D E S P E R A T E S  
B E C L U S T E R I  
W R E F U G E E S T  
H E A D L I N E S A  
H E A D M A S T E R  
O S T R A C I Z E D  
N C H A R C O A L W  
M U R M U R N P P H

## WORD BANK

TENSION

REFUGEE

HEADMASTER

CHARCOAL

HEADLINES

CLUSTER

OSTRACIZED

DESPERATE

SITAR

KERCHIEF

COLLAPSED

MURMUR

# Resources

<https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/word-search/night-diary-word-search-medium>

<https://www.veerahiranandani.com/>

<https://www.readbrightly.com/brightlys-book-club-for-kids-the-night-diary/>

<https://imaginationsoup.net/2019-newbery-caldecott-awards/>