Tomatoes for Neela
Reader's Guide

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Grade Levels: 1-4th Grades

Objective: Students will understand the importance of food in family connection and the culinary and cultural history of tomatoes.

EBR Core Action Support - Text, Task, Talk
- 1 - High Quality Text & Supports Foundational Skills
- 2 - Employ questions and tasks that are text dependent and text specific.
- 3 - Provide all students with the opportunity to engage in the work of the lesson.

Before Reading:
- Preview the front cover of the book.
- Ask students what they think this book will be about, explain that is called making predictions.

- Student Spark: Do you like to eat fresh tomatoes? What things that you eat have tomatoes in them? (Ex. Ketchup, spaghetti sauce, or pizza sauce.)

While Reading:
- On the first page are the words amma and paati. What do you think those words mean? (Amma=mother; Paati = grandmother)
- On the 2nd page many foods are listed, do you like any of these foods?

After Reading:
1. Reactions
   - What did you think about the book, do you have a favorite part?
   - How do you think the art was made?
   - Go back through the book and discuss what happened at the beginning, middle, and end.

2. Question/Discussion
   - Where do you think this story takes place?
   - Where do tomatoes originate from?
   - What are some of the reasons Neela enjoys making tomato sauce? (Delicious taste, family tradition, feeling closer to her paati.)
   - Why is it better to buy tomatoes in summer according to Neela’s amma?
   - Neela and her amma put the tomato sauce in jars, why do they do this? (They use sterilized/very clean jars and special lids to preserve the tomato sauce in order to use it throughout the year.)
   - Why does Neela place one jar in the back of the cupboard?

3. Draw or Write:
   - Do you have a favorite family recipe? Try to think of all the ingredients and write a recipe like the one in the back of this book. It’s okay if you don’t remember the recipe exactly, just guess.
   - Page 2 shows many foods that Neela enjoys, draw pictures of foods that you enjoy and write the name of each food.

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