

Guided Reading Resource

A step-by-step teacher's guide for reading *Looking for Lord Ganesh* as a class reader. These questions could also be used to prompt discussion in small groups or for independent readers approaching the text on their own.

Cover image

- What is the title of the story?
- Who is the author? Who is the illustrator?
- Do you know who Lord Ganesh is? Do you know which world religion worships Lord Ganesh?
- Why do you think the girl on the front cover might be looking for Lord Ganesh?
- How does the illustration on the front cover link to the title of the story?



Pages 1-2

- What is the name of the main character in the story?
- What do you think having a constant toothache would be like? Why is this a good description of Anika's feelings?
- What kind of relationship do you think Anika and Granny have?
- Can you see images of Lord Ganesh on this page?
- Why does Anika call Lord Ganesh, "Lord G"?
- Why is Granny so far away from Anika now? How did you work this out?



Pages 3-4

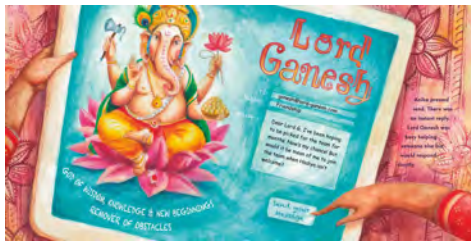
- Can you spot Anika and Hadiya on this page?
- Which character is Victor? Where is Kayla?
- Where do you think "home" might be for Hadiya?
- What sport are the children discussing? How do you know?
- Why do you think the children are reluctant to accept Hadiya on to their team?

Pages 5-6

- Why does Anika ask "Lord G" for help?
- Do you recognise the poster on her bedroom wall? Where have you seen this before?
- Have you ever asked someone, or something, for help and not received a reply? How did you feel?
- What does Anika do when she does not receive an answer from Lord Ganesh? Look at the bottom right-hand corner of the page.

Pages 7-8

- Why does Hadiya want her and Anika to form their own team?
- Why does Anika think everybody will laugh at “a team of two”?
- Why does Anika reply to Hadiya’s question “softly”?
- Which character do you agree with: is it more important to have fun or to listen to what other people say about you?
- What questions do you think Anika needs answers to?
- How do you think she is going to use her mother’s tablet?



Pages 9-10

- Ganesh is god of “wisdom, knowledge and new beginnings” and a “remover of obstacles”. Why do you think Anika has chosen him to answer her questions?
- In this picture, Ganesh is holding an axe, a noose, a lotus flower and a bowl of Indian sweets. Can you do some research to find out what these objects symbolise?
- How would you answer Anika’s question here: would it be mean of her to join the team without Hadiya?
- Do you think Lord G will really “respond shortly”?
- If you had to email anyone or any being to ask for help, who or what would it be?

Pages 11-12

- Anika is waiting for a response from Lord Ganesh. Why do you think, “her gaze wandered to the poster her grandmother had given her” at this point?
- “Prasada” is a type of food that is eaten by Hindus worshipping together. Do you know of any other religions that place special significance on types of food?
- “My happiness is in my own hands” is Anika’s interpretation of the statement on the poster: “The whole world is at your feet and for your asking”. Would you interpret this in the same way as Anika?
- Can you see the little mouse at the corner of the poster? Can you find out what this mouse means to Hindus who worship Lord Ganesh?
- What do you think Anika decides to do on this page?

Pages 13-14

- What does Victor mean when he says, “What about Captain Hadiya?”
- Why is Hadiya practising by herself on this page?
- Do you think Anika is right about Hadiya wanting to practise on her own?
- Can you find the simile on this page?
- Why do you think Anika feels guilty here?



Pages 13-14 continued

- Have you ever had a similar experience to Anika? Do you think you would act like Anika in this situation?
- Would you agree with the “tiny voice” inside Anika? Do you think her behaviour shows her not to be a true friend of Hadiya’s?
- Where do you think the “tiny voice” inside Anika comes from?

Pages 15-16

- What do you think of the illustrator’s drawing on this page? Does it help you understand how Anika is feeling?
- What do you think Anika can do to “make it right”?
- Will Lord Ganesh ever be available to help Anika with her problems?



Pages 17-18

- Lord Ganesh is always shown as having one complete tusk and one broken tusk. Can you find out why this is?
- Why do you think Anika has stuck post-its on her poster of Lord Ganesh?
- What do you think Anika is going to do next?

Pages 19-20

- Do you think Hadiya’s reaction to Anika here (“Some friend”) is justified?
- Why does Anika take a deep breath before replying to Victor: “Hadiya is going to play with you today”?
- What skills do you think Hadiya demonstrated in order for Victor to call her “awesome”?
- Why does Anika now think she is off the team?

Pages 21-22

- Why does Anika give her email the subject “Happy and Sad”?
- How would you feel in Anika’s situation?
- How do you think Anika will feel when she gets “no response” again?
- How does the illustration on this page help us to understand Anika’s feelings?



Pages 23-24

- Here the rope symbolises being able to pull yourself up to your “highest goal”. Can you think of any other objects that could symbolise reaching goals?
- What would *you* be proud to achieve?
- What can you spot in Anika’s bedroom that tells us a bit about the things that are important to her?

Pages 25-26

- Why does Anika stand on the sidelines and cheer Hadiya on?
- How do Kayla and Victor’s reactions to Hadiya here contrast with those at the beginning of the story?
- Why does Hadiya suggest starting a new team?
- How do you think the other children react to Hadiya’s announcement?
- What do you think of Hadiya’s behaviour in the story?



Pages 27-28

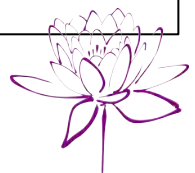
- There are a lot of group hugs on this page! What does this show about the relationships between the children at the end of the story?
- Lots of new characters are mentioned at this point in the book. Why do you think the author does this?
- Why do you think Hadiya is chosen to be captain at the end of the story?
- Hadiya says, “Fun is the main goal”. Where has she said something similar to this before?
- What do you think Anika means by “friendship is the highest goal”? How does this link back to the Lord Ganesh poster in Anika’s bedroom?

Page 29

- Why do you think Anika concludes that Lord Ganesh has been helping her all along?
- In the story, what do you think Anika was looking for?
- Can you find out why the lotus flower is important to Hindus? Why do you think this flower is shown on the last page?
- Why is Anika shown with Lord Ganesh’s trunk wrapped around her?
- Do you think Lord Ganesh really helped Anika?

At the end of the story:

- What words would you use to describe the character of Anika?
- Would you have done anything differently to Anika?
- Do you think this story has a moral or message? How would you explain this?
- Do you think lots of readers will be able to identify with Anika or Hadiya? Explain your answer.
- What is left unexplained in the story? Why do you think this is?
- What is your favourite page in the book and why?



Challenge words in the story:

substitute

gaze

prasada

murmured

retain

achieve