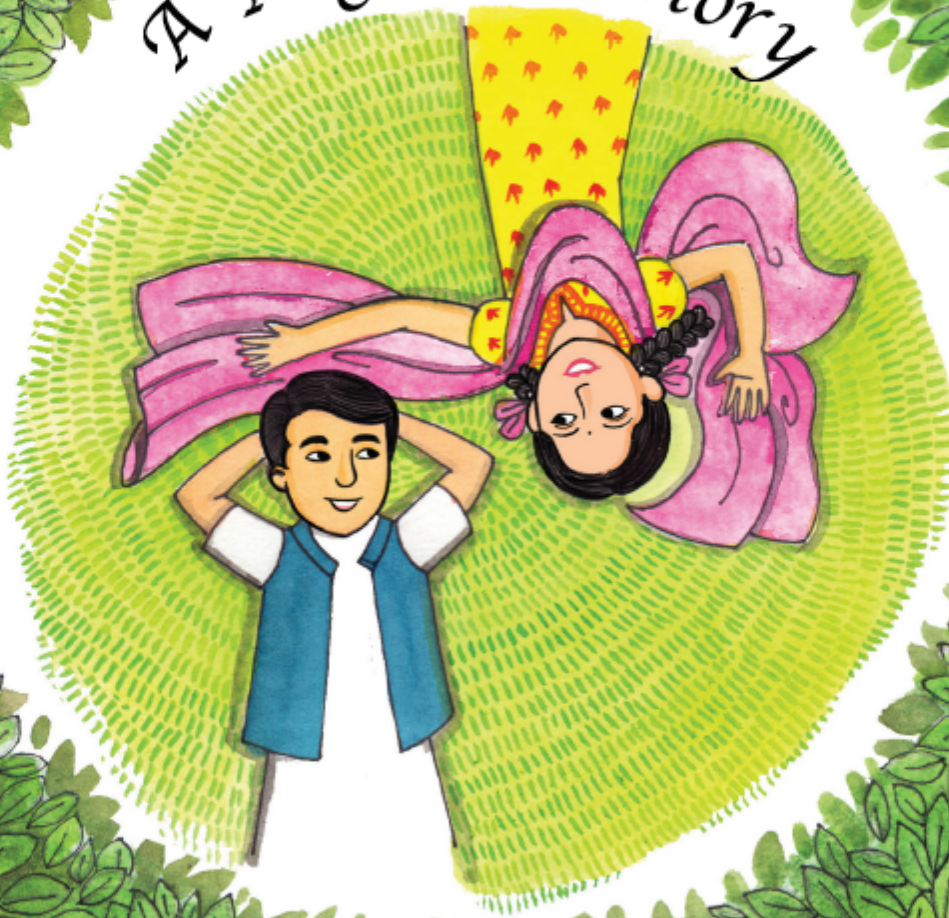


Gope and Meera

A Migration Story



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Educator's Guide

Educator's Resource: Gope and Meera – A Migration Story

For Ages 7–11 | Themes: Migration, Identity, Empathy, Resilience, Culture, History

"To understand migration is not just to learn about movement — it is to learn about people, their pain, their hope, and the stories they carry."

Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

Define migration and forced migration.

Identify push and pull factors of migration using real-life examples.

Understand the human impact of displacement through the 1947 Partition of India.

Connect Gope and Meera's story to global migration today.

Practice empathy by imagining others' experiences.

Explore ways to welcome and support migrants.

Celebrate how culture and stories help people stay connected to their roots.

Background for Teachers

The Partition of India (1947) led to one of the largest forced migrations in history. Over 14 million people were displaced as borders were drawn between India and Pakistan. Communities like the Hindu Sindhis, who had lived in Sindh for generations, were uprooted overnight. This story shares that history through the eyes of two children — making it accessible, emotional, and deeply human.

1. What Is Migration? Push & Pull Factors (Start Here!)

Define:

Migration = when people move from one place to live in another.

Forced migration = when people have to leave because of danger, war, or disaster.

Push and Pull Factors

Use a simple T-chart or two-column diagram:

PUSH FACTORS

(WHY PEOPLE LEAVE)

PULL FACTORS

(WHY PEOPLE GO)

War or conflict

Safety and peace

Natural disasters

Better schools or jobs

Not enough food or water

Family already living there

Fear of being hurt or treated unfairly

A chance for a new life

Losing their home

Freedom to practice their beliefs

 Ask: “Have you ever moved? Was it a push or a pull?”

Activity: Push or Pull? Sorting Game

Give students scenario cards (e.g., “A family leaves because of a flood” / “A doctor moves to a city with a good hospital”) and have them sort into “Push” or “Pull.”

2. Pre-Reading: Activating Prior Knowledge

1. KWL Chart: What Is Migration?

K – What do we know about migration?

W – What do we want to know?

L – Fill in after reading: What did we learn?

2. Empathy Warm-Up: “Imagine If...”

“Imagine you had to leave your home... forever. You can’t bring everything. What would you take? Who would you miss? What would you be afraid of?”

Let students draw or write their thoughts.

3. During-Reading Discussion Questions

How do Gope and Meera feel at the beginning? What makes them happy?

What changes when India is divided? Is it sudden? How do they react?

What push factors made their families leave Sindh?

What pull factors might have given them hope?

How do the illustrations show sadness, fear, or hope?

4. Post-Reading Questions & Activities

1. What did “migration” mean to you before reading? Has it changed?

Activity: Write a reflection or draw a “before” and “after” picture.

2. Imagine You Lived in Sindh

Describe three things you would see, hear, and smell in Sindh.

Art Extension: Draw your version of Sindh — a home, a market, a festival.

3. Freedom and Heartbreak: The Partition of India

India became independent — like a bird set free. But soon, it was divided.

 How do you think people felt — excited for freedom, but suddenly afraid?

Writing Prompt: Write a diary entry as a child in Sindh in August 1947.

4. My Favourite Part & Character

What was your favourite part? Why?

Who is your favourite character? What would you say to them?

Creative Extension: Write a letter to Gope or Meera.

5. Do Any Characters Remind You of Someone You Know?

Prompt: “Have you ever had a best friend? How would you feel if you were suddenly separated?”

6. Why Is It Special That Nani and Nana Tell the Story?

Grandparents pass down memories.

💬 How is hearing a story from a grandparent different than reading it in a textbook?

Activity: Interview a family member about a time someone in your family moved.

7. Feelings on the Move

Look at the illustrations of people leaving.

How do they feel? (Use words: scared, sad, hopeful, confused, brave)

What are their biggest fears?

What gives them hope?

8. What Would You Take?

If you had to leave your home forever, what five items would you take?

Explain why each one matters.

Extension: Create a “Migration Suitcase” collage.

9. Name Changes and Identity

In the story, Meera changes her name before marriage, as part of a tradition.

💬 How do you think a new bride might feel to change her name — and leave her family behind?

Note: Share the background [1] in age-appropriate language.

Discussion: “Names are part of who we are. What would it feel like to change yours?”

10. What Do the Children Learn?

Anoushka, Nadia, and Tarun listen to their grandparents’ story.

What do they learn about migration, family, and history?

How do they feel at the end?

Writing Prompt: “Now I understand that migration is not just about moving — it’s about...”

11. Migration Then and Now

Connect Partition to modern migration stories:

Syrian refugees

Ukrainian families fleeing war

Climate migrants

💬 What do these stories have in common? How are they different?

Map Activity: Place sticky notes on a world map showing where people are migrating today.

12. How Can We Help Migrants Today?

Brainstorm kind actions:

Welcome new students

Learn about their cultures

Write letters of support

Fundraise for refugee organizations

Project: Design a “Welcome Kit” for a new student.

13. Why Should We Know This Story?

💬 Why is it important to read stories like Gope and Meera’s — even if we’re not Sindhi or Indian?

Key idea: To build empathy. To remember. To prevent history from repeating.

14. Keeping Culture Alive

Even though Sindhi people left their homeland, they kept their culture through:

Language

Food

Festivals (like Cheti Chand)

Stories

Activity:

Research a Sindhi festival or recipe.

Create a “Culture Keepsake Box” with symbols of your own heritage.

🎨 Creative Extension Projects

🖼️ 1. Illustrate a Memory

Draw a scene from Gope and Meera’s life in Sindh — before the Partition.

📋 2. Create a Family Tree

Make a simple family tree. Include names, places, and maybe a story from a grandparent.

🎭 3. Act Out the Story

Turn the book into a short classroom play.

4. Write a Letter to the Author

Share what the story meant to you. Ask one question.

5. Sing a Lullaby from Another Culture

Listen to a Sindhi or Indian lullaby. Discuss how music carries memory.

Teacher Tips

Handle with care: Focus on resilience, hope, and kindness.

Use visuals: Maps, photos, and artefacts help students connect.

Invite voices: If possible, invite someone from the community to speak.

Validate emotions: Allow space for silence, drawing, or quiet reflection.

Recommended Companion Books

Inside Out and Back Again – Thanhha Lai

Land of the Cranes – Aida Salazar

A Long Walk to Water – Linda Sue Park

Esperanza Rising – Pam Muñoz Ryan

The Red Pencil – Andrea Davis Pinkney

Home of the Brave – Katherine Applegate

The Turtle of Michigan – Naomi Shihab Nye