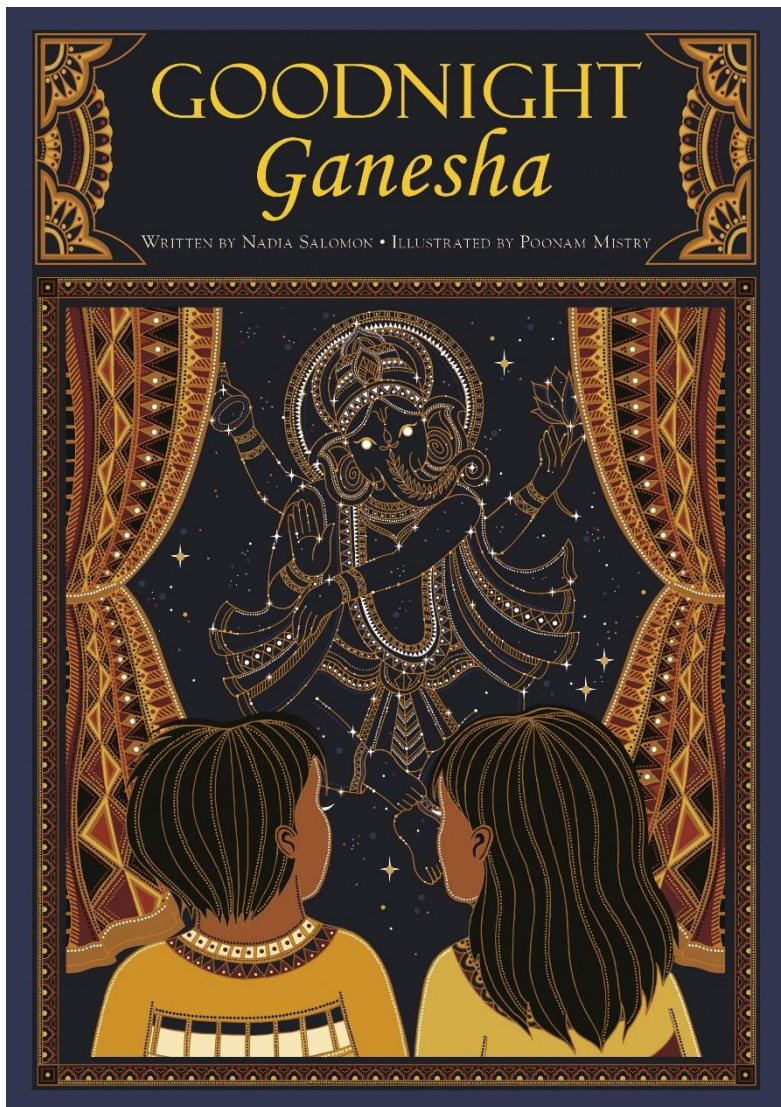


# Reader's Guide for *Goodnight Ganesha*



based upon the picture book  
written by Nadia Salomon and  
illustrated by Poonam Mistry

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**A**s nighttime falls over the city, two children visiting their grandparents in India

find there's so much fun to be had! Whether it's listening to epic stories or observing rituals in the puja room, there are many moments that make this time together special.

In this beautiful rhyming ode to bedtime, the only thing more universal than getting ready for bed and saying goodnight is the love between children and their grandparents.

**This gorgeously illustrated goodnight story offers a glossary of Telugu words and provides an author's note explaining what inspired her to write this story.**

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## **Nadia Salomon, Author Goodnight Ganesha**

Nadia Salomon is a children's author writing on themes of South Asian and Caribbean culture, STEM, Non-fiction, and humor. When not participating in her own goodnight rituals, Nadia can most likely be found curled up in her reading nook with a good book or spinning a silly yarn. Nadia is an award-winning journalist who has freelanced with *The Boston Globe*. Nadia lives in California with her family. This is her debut children's book.

Visit her website at [www.nadiasalomon.com](http://www.nadiasalomon.com).



## **Poonam Mistry, Illustrator Goodnight Ganesha**

Poonam Mistry is a freelance Illustrator currently living in the UK. Her style incorporates her love Hindu Folklore and nature. She explores the relationships between patterns, shapes, and color to create beautifully intricate and stunning illustrations. Indian fabrics, paintings and ornaments heavily influence her work. Currently, she is working on a selection of children's books.

Visit her website at [www.poonam-mistry.com](http://www.poonam-mistry.com).

# Reader's Guide for *Goodnight Ganেশha*

## Discussion Questions

Look at the different parts of the book.

*Jacket, jacket flap, front cover, end papers, title page, interior pages, back cover, spine*

Find clues to help you predict  
What you think this story  
is about?



- Who are the characters? Where are they? What are they doing?
- Where do you think this story takes place?
- What do you think the weather is like?
- What are some of your bedtime routines?  
If you don't think you have one, what would you like to try?
- How are your routines similar to the ones in this book?  
How are they different?
- How did you feel after reading this book?
- What did the author do to make you feel that way?
- How do you think the children feel about Ganेशha?
- What clues in the story show you how they feel?

# Reader's Guide for *Goodnight Ganesha*

## Content Connections for Teachers

Find an example of:  
alliteration, repetition,  
onomatopoeia, assonance,  
consonance, and metaphor



- Compare and contrast
- Imagery and Details
- Rhyme and Rhythm
- Patterns
- Traditions

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## Writing Prompts

Write a poem  
about going to bed or  
saying goodnight using the  
same format found  
in this book.

### Use the sample below to help get you started:

"Sleep presses our eyes for a dreamy flight.  
We stretch, we yawn, we hug Nana tight.  
She reaches up gently to turn off the light,  
while we lay down our heads and say goodnight.

*Goodnight, sleep.*  
*Goodnight, dreamy flight.*  
*Goodnight, yawn—tired eyes welcome night."*

Write a good morning poem about items in the classroom.

What items would you choose? Why?

Write a goodbye poem about items in the classroom.

What items would you choose? Why?

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## Physical Activities

Let's play TAG!

*"You're it!" huffs Tata—face red as a beet.  
"It's bedtime!" says Nana—voice raspy but sweet.  
So, we hustle upstairs to brush our teeth.  
Tata kisses our hands, tickles our feet.*



## ***Goodnight, Tata Tag Game***

One player chooses to be Tata.

Tata must find a place to "sleep". (\*Snoring optional)

The remaining kids run in circles around "sleeping" Tata.

When they get close, ask:  
"Are you awake, Tata?"

When he's ready,  
Tata wakes up with a big yawn and gives chase.

All the kids must run away, lie down, and fall asleep  
before Tata tags them.

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## Additional Activities

Research details about India (the geography, people, food, traditions). Share with a partner or the rest of the class.

If you were to travel to Hyderabad, India, where the children's grandparents live, what would you write or draw about your trip?

- What sights would you want to see?
- What foods would you want to eat?
- Which articles of clothing would you try to wear?
- What would the weather be like?
- Would you take the Metro? Ride in an auto rickshaw?
- Would you visit a local temple? Or the old city?

The illustrator uses **Kalamkari Art** to bring the author's story to life. Kalamkari is an old form of hand-painting found in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It involves 23 steps! Try to draw a picture using this art style.

## Language Activities

Go on a word scavenger hunt. Find a word or phrase that engages each of the five senses.

Pick a stanza. Read it aloud. Draw your own picture to go with it.

*Goodnight Ganesha* uses several **Telugu** (Tell-uh-goo) words. Telugu is a language spoken in Hyderabad, India. Use the *glossary* to sound out each word.

<b>Chai (Ch-eye)</b>	<b>Deepam (Dhee-pum)</b>	<b>Kumkum (Koom-koom)</b>	<b>Puja (Poo-jah)</b>	<b>Thali (Tha-lee)</b>
Black tea with milk	Clay oil lamp	Red powder made of turmeric	Ceremony	Silver tray

- Make flashcards in Telugu and in English to remember pronunciations and meanings.
- Or play 20 Questions with your classmates to get familiar with these words.