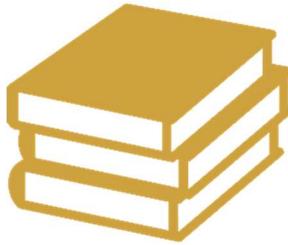


## Books About Sikhism for Your Classroom Library



One of the easiest ways to introduce Sikhism into your classroom is by adding books about Sikhism or with Sikh characters to your classroom library. These books can be mirrors for Sikh students to see themselves reflected in literature and windows into the beliefs, practices, and experiences of Sikhs in the US and around the world. The books are sorted by level and type. Additional classroom resources for these books and other topics are available at <https://www.kaurfoundation.org/kf-library.html>.

### Part 1: Learning about Sikhism

The books in this group teach the reader about Sikhism through narratives told by or about Sikh children. These can be used for an age-appropriate introduction to Sikhism as well as to address related themes, such as making friends, being unique and similar to other, and making friends.

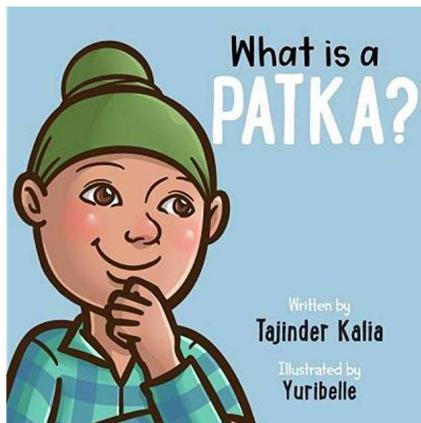
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*“When there are enough books available that can act as both windows and mirrors for all our children, they will see that we can celebrate both our differences and our similarities, because together they are what make us all human.”*

*--Rudine Sims Bishop, 1990*

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### Pre-K and Lower Elementary (K-2)



### What is a Patka?

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#### **Publisher's Description:**

Mohan wears a patka everyday...and he gets lots of questions! Parents, Educators and Caregivers can use this book as a resource to educate young children on the Sikh Patka. Topics covered include:- Who wears them, and why- Proper etiquette- General information. This beginner book is appropriate for children aged three to six.

By Tajinder Kalia  
Illustrated by Yuribelle  
Independently Published,  
2019

#### **Themes:**

Sikh beliefs and practices, being different, being respectful

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## The Boy with Long Hair

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### **Publisher's Description:**

The Boy with Long Hair is a true story of a California-born Sikh boy. He was quite happy in San Jose. His family moved to a small town where they had not seen a boy with long hair. Here, no one wanted to play with him, or talk to him. His isolation saddened him and ignorance of kids around him angered him. This book tells the story of courage and triumph of this young boy, how he dealt with the situation and finally became happy as the boy with long hair. His unique identity was no longer a problem. Everyone in his school knew him as an intelligent fun-loving boy.

Written and illustrated by  
Pushpinder Kaur Singh  
Tej Publishing House, 2017

### **Themes:**

New School, being different, Sikh beliefs and practices, similarities, making friends

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## Joora

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### **Publisher's Description:**

Haakam Singh is Daya Kaur's little brother. He is just starting kindergarten and feeling a little nervous. Follow Haakam Singh as he meets a new friend and explains why he has a joora (a knot of hair on his head) and how proud he is to have a joora that makes him feel unique and special.

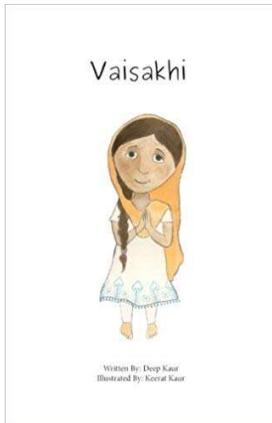
### **Themes:**

Starting School, making friends, internal diversity of religion, being different

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By Deep Kaur  
Illustrated by Keerat Kaur  
Paaras Press, 2017





## Vaisakhi

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### **Publisher's Description:**

Daya Kaur is getting older and still has a thirst for discovering and learning about her Panjabi heritage, culture and language. Come join her, along with her family, as they celebrate Vaisakhi - the creation of Khalsa.

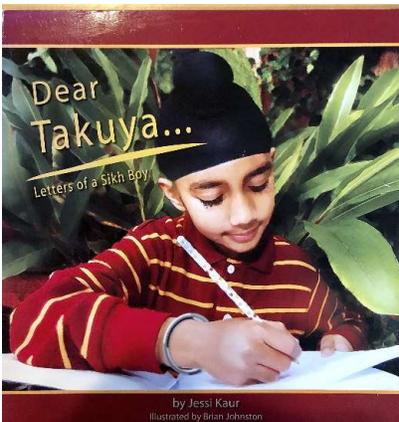
By Deep Kaur  
Illustrated by Keerat Kaur  
Paaras Press, 2017

### **Themes:**

Celebrations, learning about Sikhism, Sikh history, family gatherings

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## Upper Elementary (Grades 3-6)



## Dear Takuya: Letters of a Sikh Boy

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### **Description:**

Told through the letters of eight-year-old Simar Singh to his Japanese pen pal, Takuya, this story shares Sikh core values, traditions, history, and culture. Simar attends a summer camp for Sikh youth, and as he learns more about Sikhism, he shares this new knowledge and his perspective with his pen pal. The story introduces a lot of information about Sikhism and the Sikh-American experience through an engaging narrative in the eyes of child.

By Jessi Kaur  
Illustrated by Brian Johnston  
IIGS, 2008

### **Themes:**

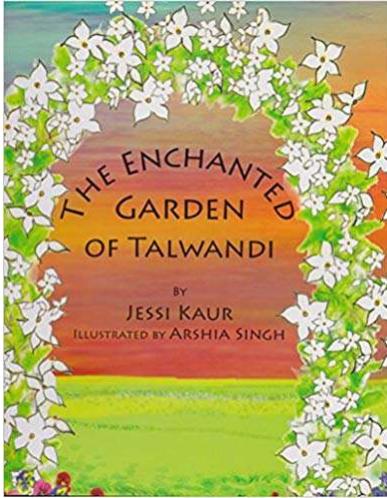
Learning about religion and heritage, inter-religious understanding, friendship, Sikh beliefs and practices, Sikh history

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## The Enchanted Garden of Talwandi

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By Jessi Kaur  
Illustrated by Arshia Singh  
EnthicIsland, 2013

### **Publisher's Description:**

The Enchanted Garden of Talwandi is based on a *janam saakhi* (fable of childhood) of Guru Nanak Sahib, the founder of the Sikh religion. The *janam saakhies* are part of the folklore that celebrates Guru Ji's divine presence and message. Parents often relate these stories to young children to foster love for Guru Ji, and teach morals and values. The garden is a metaphor for a world where pride, jealousy, and competitiveness make everyone unhappy. Guru Ji's message, related by a wise owl, teaches the inhabitants how to make their garden a harmonious and peaceful place where everyone thrives. The lessons are precious and timeless.

### **Themes:**

Jealousy, pride, equality, unity, kindness, harmony

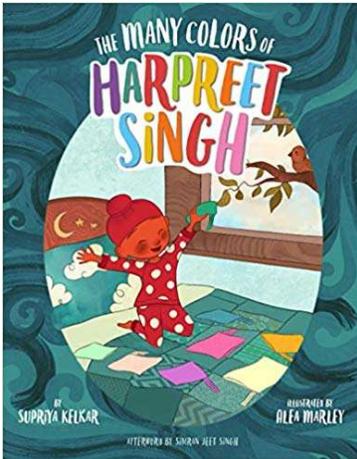
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## Part 2: Books with Sikh Characters

These books feature Sikh characters, but they are not necessarily intended to educate about Sikhism. In these stories, Sikh characters tackle challenges from everyday issues such as mean kids at school and disagreements with parents to the extraordinary, whether standing up to a dragon or fighting unjust laws.

### Pre-K and Lower Elementary (K-2)



### **The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh**

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#### **Publisher's Description:**

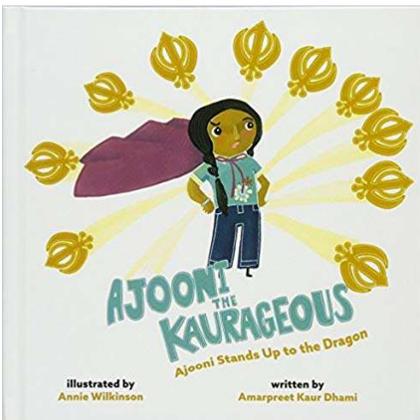
Harpreet Singh has a different color for every mood and occasion, from pink for dancing to bhangra beats to red for courage. He especially takes care with his patka—his turban—smoothing it out and making sure it always matches his outfit. But when Harpreet's mom finds a new job in a snowy city and they have to move, all he wants is to be invisible. Will he ever feel a happy sunny yellow again?

#### **Themes:**

Moving, expressing emotions, new school, making friends

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By Supriya Kelkar  
Illustrated by Alea Marley



### **Ajooni the Kourageous: Ajooni Stands Up to the Dragon**

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#### **Publisher's Description:**

Ajooni Kaur is the bravest girl in the whole neighborhood, but then a ferocious dragon appears in the forest. Will Ajooni be able to rediscover her courage and be the bravest girl in the neighborhood again? With bright, colorful illustrations, Ajooni the Kourageous is a great way to teach children about confidence and strength!

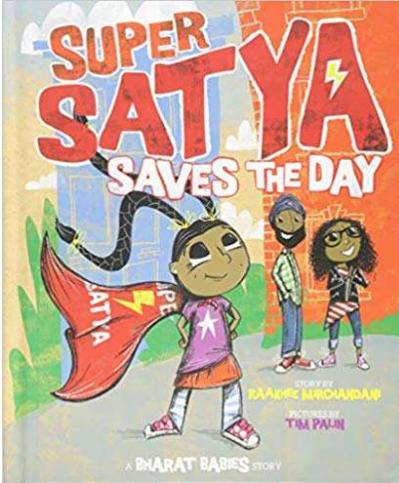
#### **Themes:**

Confidence, bravery, overcoming fear, standing up for others, believing in yourself, standing up to bullies, courage, strength

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By Supriya Kelkar  
Illustrated by Alea Marley  
Sterling Children's Books,  
2019





## Super Satya Saves the Day

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### **Publisher's Description:**

Super Satya is ready to have a super day, including finally conquering the tallest slide in Hoboken. But things take a not-so-super turn when she realizes her superhero cape is stuck at the dry cleaner. Will she be able to face her fears, help her friends, and be the true hero everyone knows she is? *Super Satya Saves the Day*, introduces Satya, a precocious Indian-American superhero, who is ready to save the day, even if she doesn't always know it right away!

By Raakhee Mirchanandani  
Illustrated by Tim Palin

### **Themes:**

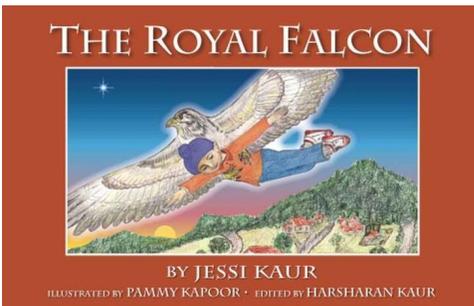
Believing in yourself, everyday heroes, helping others, bravery, facing fears

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## Upper Elementary (Grades 3-6)

## The Royal Falcon

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### **Publisher's Description:**

Eight-year-old Arjan suspects his class mate of stealing his special pencil. In a magical moment, Guru Gobind Singh ji's falcon comes alive to help him. Will Arjan get his pencil back? Why does the royal falcon take him back in time to 1705 to witness Guru ji's court in session? Join Arjan and Khushi, the falcon, in an exciting tale of adventure and friendship.

By Jessi Kaur  
Illustrated by Pammy Kapoor  
IIGS, 2009

### **Themes:**

Generosity, forgiveness, compassion, tolerance, learning from historical examples

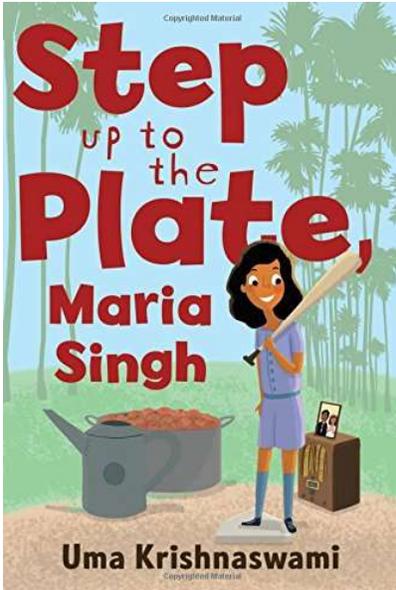
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## Middle Grades:

### Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh

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#### **Publisher's Description:**

Nine-year-old Maria Singh longs to play softball in the first-ever girls' team forming in Yuba City, California. It's the spring of 1945, and World War II is dragging on. Miss Newman, Maria's teacher, is inspired by Babe Ruth and the All-American Girls' League to start a girls' softball team at their school. Meanwhile, Maria's parents--Papi from India and Mama from Mexico--can no longer protect their children from prejudice and from the discriminatory laws of the land. When the family is on the brink of losing their farm, Maria must decide if she has what it takes to step up and find her voice in an unfair world. In this fascinating middle grade novel, award-winning author Uma Krishnaswami sheds light on a little-known chapter of American history set in a community whose families made multicultural choices before the word had been invented.

By  
Uma Krishnaswami  
Tu Books, 2017

#### **Themes:**

Bi-cultural families, Sikh-Mexican families, WWII, fear of difference, economic disparities, discrimination (gender, race), civic participation, sports, citizenship

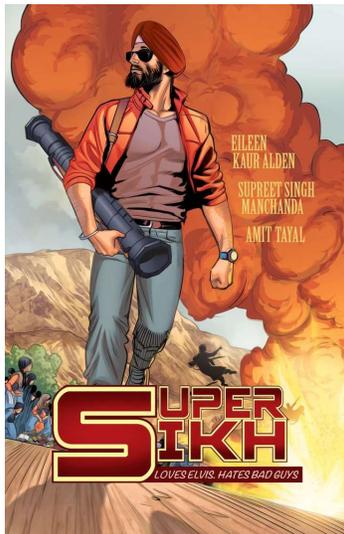
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Kaur Foundation

[www.kaurfoundation.org](http://www.kaurfoundation.org)

## Young Adult



By Eileen Kaur Alden &  
Supreet Singh Manchanda  
Illustrated by Amit Tayal  
Rosarium Publishing, 2019

### Super Sikh (Volume 1)

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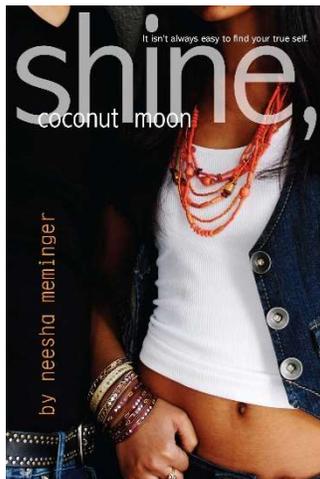
#### **Publisher's Description:**

Meet Deep Singh. He loves Elvis and hates the Taliban. By day he works at a tech company and lives with his parents. But that's just a front. For Deep Singh is really a top secret agent for the United Nations, fighting terrorism all around the world. But right now, he really needs a vacation. And there's only one place to go...Graceland!

#### **Themes:**

Superheroes, fighting terrorism, secret agents, standing up for others, assumptions

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By  
Neesha Meminger  
Margaret K. McElderry  
Books, 2009

### Shine, Coconut Moon

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#### **Publisher's Description:**

Sixteen-year-old Samar—aka Sam—is an Indian American teenager whose mom has kept her away from her old-fashioned family. It's never bothered Sam, who is busy with school, friends, and a demanding boyfriend. But things change after 9/11. A guy in a turban shows up at Sam's house—and turns out to be her uncle. He wants to reconcile the family and teach Sam about her Sikh heritage. She is eager to learn, but when boys attack her uncle, shouting "Go home Osama!" Sam realizes she could be in danger—and just how dangerous ignorance is.

#### **Themes:**

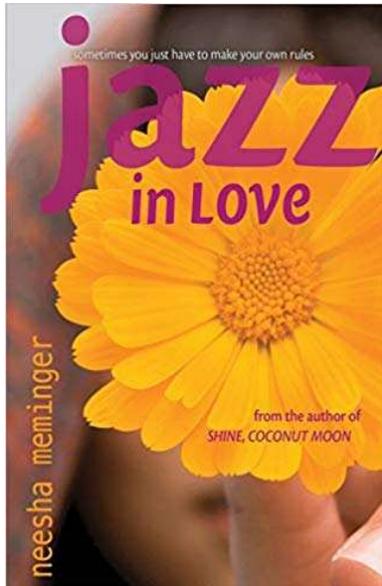
Cultural and religious identity, bigotry, family relationships, 9/11, terrorism

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## Jazz in Love

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By Neesha Meminger  
Independently Published,  
2011

### **Publisher's Description:**

Jasbir, a.k.a. Jazz, has always been a stellar student and an obedient, albeit wise-cracking, daughter. Everything has gone along just fine--she has good friends in the "genius" program she's been in since kindergarten, her teachers and principal adore her, and her parents dote on her. But now, in her junior year of high school, her mother hears that Jazz was seen hugging a boy on the street and goes ballistic. Mom immediately implements the Guided Dating Plan, which includes setting up blind dates with "suitable," pre-screened Indian candidates. The boy her mother sets her up with, however, is not at all what anyone expects; and the new boy at school, the very UNSuitable hottie, is the one who sets Jazz's blood boiling. When Jazz makes a few out-of-the-ordinary decisions, everything explodes, and she realizes she'll need a lot more than her genius education to get out of the huge mess she's in. Can Jazz find a way to follow her own heart, and still stay in the good graces of her parents?

### **Themes:**

Relationships, Sikh-American families, expectations, dating, cultural traditions

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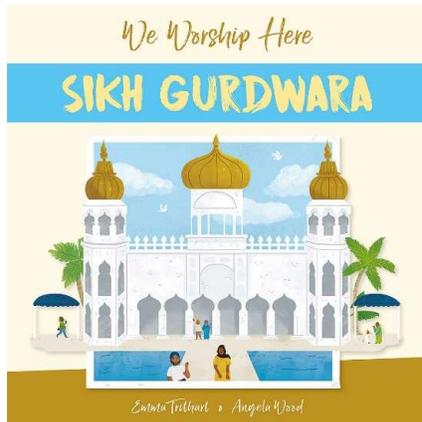
Kaur Foundation

[www.kaurfoundation.org](http://www.kaurfoundation.org)

## Part 3: Informational/Non-Fiction

### **We Worship Here: Sikh Gurdwara**

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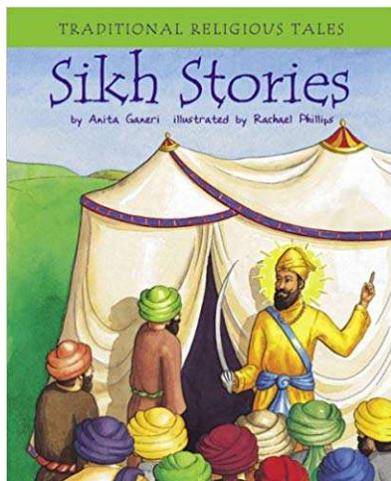
#### **Publisher's Description:**

What is a gurdwara for? Who is Guru Nanak? What is the Guru Granth Sahib? How do Sikhs worship? All these questions and more are explored in this first introduction to the religion of Sikhism.

The *We Worship Here* series introduces children aged 6+ to the main religions of the world. Each book features information about beliefs, values and the ways people worship. The books are clearly and sensitively written and the text is supported with beautiful illustrations.

By Kanwaljit Kaur-Singh and  
Emma Trithart  
Franklin Watts Publishing,  
2019

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### **Sikh Stories: Traditional Religious Tales**

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#### **Publisher's Description:**

The collection of stories in this book comes from the Sikh religion. Sikhs believe in one God who sees and knows everything. He created the world and is everlasting and all-powerful. Sikhs follow the teachings of the Gurus who taught ordinary people how God wanted them to live. In this book, you can read some of the many stories about the Gurus' lives.

By Anita Ganeri  
Illustrated by Rachael  
Phillips  
Picture Window Books, 2006

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