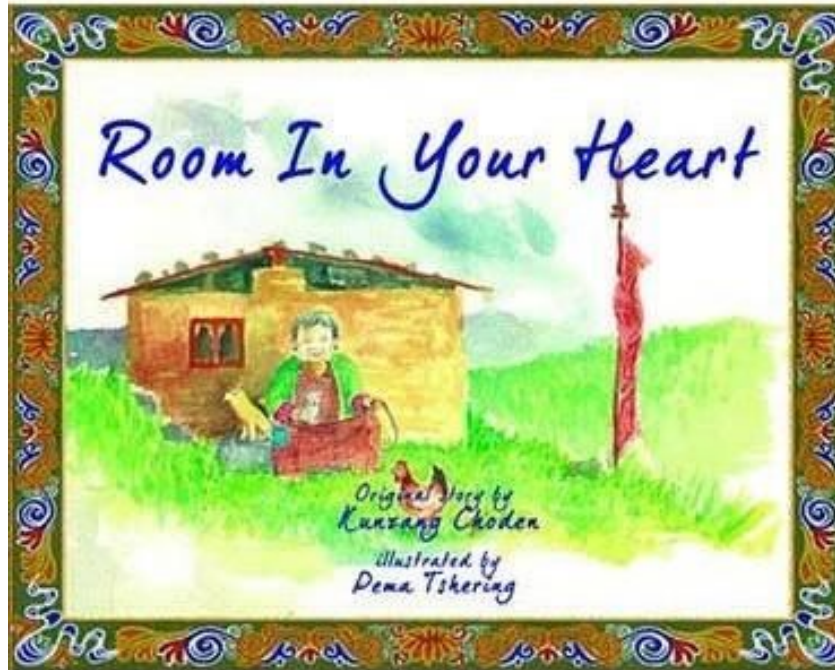


## ROOM IN YOUR HEART: TEACHING AND ACTIVITY GUIDE



### Overview of the Book

Room In Your Heart is a heartwarming story from Bhutan which reflects their tradition of hospitality. It is a universal story about kindness and the generosity of spirit.

“When there’s room in your heart, there’s always room in your house” - a stirring message that has a striking relevance in today’s troubling times. This North American edition is packed with additional fun facts on Bhutan, that takes you on a trip to this little-known place.

*"A simple and sweet introduction to Bhutanese culture that's as unvarnished as its protagonist's home." - [Kirkus Review](#)*

### Key Information

- **Genre:** Fiction
- **Interest Level:** Pre-K to Gr. 3.
- **Subjects:** Kindness, Sharing, Bhutan, Diversity, Folktales

## ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Make Room In Your Heart! Ask children to write or draw their friends and family and everything they love in the heart below!



## ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOLERS



**DRAMATIZE THE STORY** - Assign roles to different children in the classroom - One can be the old woman, one can be the monk and the others can be the visitors - and enact the story out in the classroom or library while doing a read-aloud.



**EXPLORE THE WORLD** - Use a world map and show the distance from your location to Bhutan. Explore ways in which a person can travel to Bhutan and discuss various facts and information listed about Bhutan at the end of the book.



**TEACH KINDNESS AND SHARING** - Talk to children about how we can all be kind and share with others. Ask them to list things that they would be ok with sharing and what may be difficult for them to share. Talk about why they wouldn't want to share, and how they can overcome their hesitations.

## **TEACHING GUIDE FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Use the popular teaching strategy of Text-to-Text, Text-to-Self, Text-to-World with this book to bring the story alive for the children.

Through this methodology, children will be able to connect Room In Your Heart to their own experiences, and with current events around the world that will help them expand their knowledge and better understand the book. It will also enable them to develop multiple associations and better retain the message behind Room In Your Heart.





## TEXT-TO-TEXT

A. Pair Room In Your Heart with any of the following popular titles to further hone in on the message of friendship, sharing and kindness:

- The Big Umbrella (Simon and Schuster, 2018)
- Llama, Llama, Time to Share (Vikings Books for Young Readers, 2012)
- Have you filled a bucket today? A guide to daily happiness for kids (Bucket Fillers, 2015)

B. Pair Room In Your Heart with any of the following folktales to add diversity in the folktales that children are exposed to:

- The Drum: A Folktale from India (August House, 2006)
- See other folktale recommendations here:  
<https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/generosity-spirit-world-folktales-and-myths>
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C. Pair Room In Your Heart with books relating to immigration and refugees:

- Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of KunKush's Incredible Journey (Crown Books for Young Readers, 2017)
- Four Feet, Two Sandals (Eerdmans, 2007)
- The Journey (Flying Eye Books, 2016)





### TEXT-TO-SELF

Take a deeper dive into how the story resonated with each child, as they may have a unique connection to the story or the characters. Encourage children to share how the story relates to incidents in their own life, and reflects their ideas and experiences. Below are suggested questions:

What did they like about the story?

Was there anything they would do differently or change in the story?

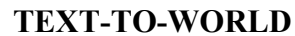
Was there anything about the illustrations or characters that was familiar to them in their personal life?

Ask children to share a time they felt like the old woman and a time they felt like one of the visitors.

Discuss ways for children to enter play when a group of their friends are playing. For example, other ways in which we can say “Is there room for me?”







Discuss the location of Bhutan on the map, its' form of government, flag and currency. Use the fun facts listed in the book to learn more about Bhutan. Compare and critique how Bhutan is similar to and different from the United States of America.

A vibrant, folk-art style illustration of a busy kitchen scene. In the center, a man in a striped shirt is lifting a woman in a red and blue striped shirt. To the right, a woman in a green shirt is stirring a large pot. A man in a striped shirt is holding a spoon. A woman in a red shirt is sitting on the floor. A dog is sitting on the floor. A cat is sitting on the floor. A donkey is in the background. A rooster is on the wall. A shelf with various items is on the wall.