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Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folktale

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Book Review

Title: Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folktale

Author: Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

Illustrator: Susy Pilgrim Waters

Reviewer: Sydnee Burr

Publisher: Scholastic Press

Publication Year: 2013

ISBN: 9781596433786

Number of Pages: 32

Interest Level: Primary

Rating: Outstanding



Review

A re-creation of a classic Bengali Folktale, *Grandma and the Great Gourd* captures new audiences and imaginations alike. Grandma travels alone through the dangerous jungle to visit her daughter. On the way, she meets very hungry, very wild animals who wish to eat her. Grandma outwits them by telling them she's too skinny, but if they would just wait until after her visit they would find her plump and tasty. Towards the end of her visit, Grandma and her daughter construct a tricky plan to help Grandma traverse the jungle again and avoid becoming a wild animal's supper.

The bright and playful illustrations automatically entrap readers and help them feel connected to Grandma and her story. The fun method of outsmarting these dangerous animals will catalyze giggles and happy memories of reading through this children's book over and over again. *Grandma and the Great Gourd* is especially appropriate for primary aged children, but all members of the household would find enjoyment in this decorative tale together. An outstanding introduction to Bengali culture and its story traditions.