

# Bollywood Beat! - Activity Guide

## ABOUT THE BOOK

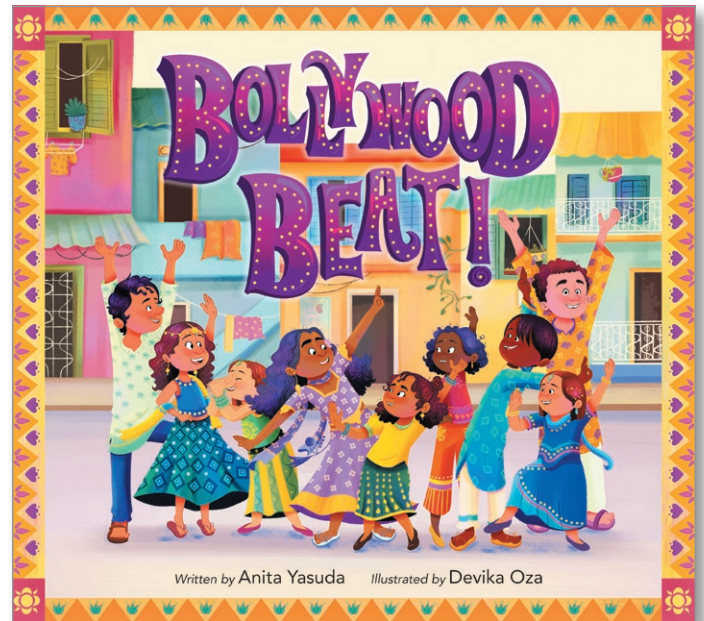
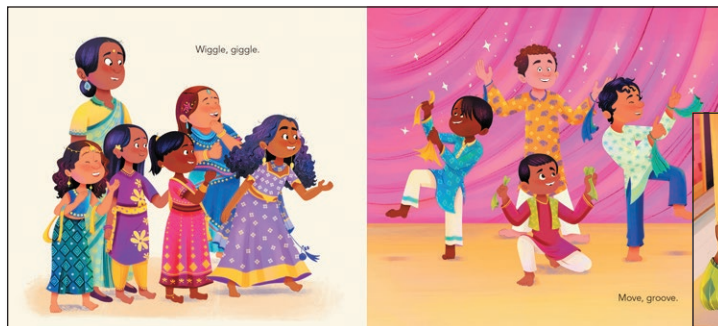
Delight in the ringing of ankle bells and the swish of colorful scarves as Bollywood dance is described in playful rhymes.

Two sisters arrive for the Masala Magic Dance Recital. They join the other performers to get ready. “Rustle, hustle.” And watch the opening act. “Wiggle, giggle.” Then it’s older sister’s turn. “Flickity-flip. Thumka-hip.” The families in the audience join in. “Toes tap. Hands clap.” It’s a wonderful time. Until . . . uh-oh. Younger sister has second thoughts about performing! “Heart-stopping.” With a gift and a bit of encouragement from older sister, little sister steps on stage. “Thumka-hip. Flickity-flip.” The audience is invited to participate. “Hustle, rustle.” And soon everyone is dancing to the Bollywood beat!

The joy is infectious in author Anita Yasuda’s lyrical romp of a picture book, and children won’t be able to resist dancing along! Bollywood culture is on full display in this delightful celebration of family, tradition and dance. Yasuda cleverly repeats the same rhymes from the first part of the story in reverse order to tell the second part of the story. The deep, rich colors in Devika Oza’s mesmerizing art bring the dance recital to life, exquisitely conveying the movement and emotions of the dancers and the audience, as well the street where the recital is set. The back matter includes a brief glossary of terms.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**ANITA YASUDA** is the author of *Up, Up, Ever Up! Junko Tabei: A Life in the Mountains*, *Diwali: A Festival of Joy* and *Bollywood Beat!*, as well as many other books for young readers. She has received a Boston Globe–Horn Book nonfiction honor, a Freeman Book Award of Note, a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard selection and a nomination for the Forest of Reading Yellow Cedar Award.



ISBN: 978-1-5253-0961-8  
Interest Ages: 4 to 8  
Grades: Pre-K to 3

Themes: dance, culture, self-esteem, self-expression, anxiety, diaspora, South Asian

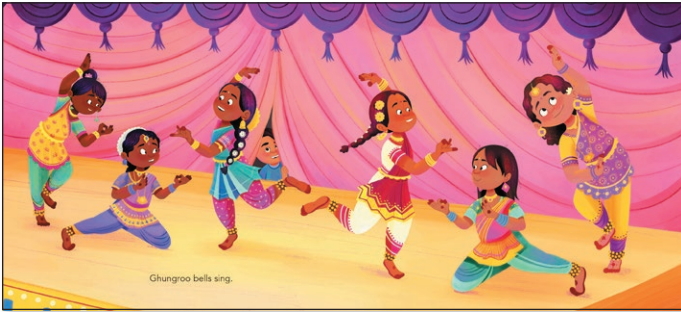
## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**DEVIKA OZA** is an illustrator from Kolkata, India, the “City of Joy,” renowned for its art, culture and food. Growing up in a land rich with folklore meant that storytelling has always been integral to her life. While pursuing a BA in multimedia and animation in a prestigious art institute in Kolkata, she discovered her passion for illustration, which led her to specialize in illustrating for children. She lived for five years in Toronto, Canada, and now resides in Dublin, Ireland.

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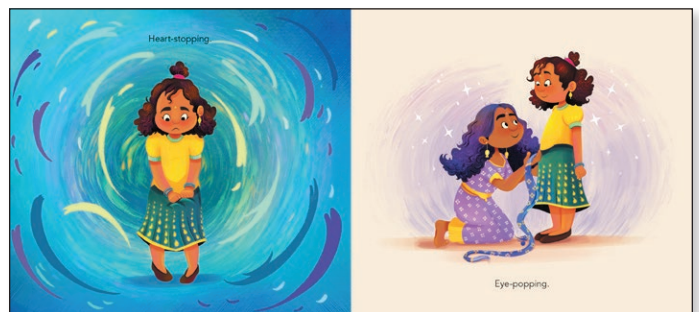
## WHAT IS BOLLYWOOD DANCE?

Bollywood dance is a vibrant way of expressing stories through song and dance.



## TEN FUN ACTIVITIES

1. Ask the students to design and color an invitation to the Masala Magic Dance Recital using the invitation below.
2. Read aloud *Bollywood Beat!* to the students. Next, ask them to choose their favorite scene from the story. Have one student at a time — or in groups — act out this scene while the rest of the class guesses which one it is. You could also add music to this dramatization.
3. Have the class listen to a Bollywood song of your choice and move to the rhythm of the beat. Ask them how the music makes them feel, and what sounds or instruments they hear.
4. Point out to the students the different hand and foot positions of the dancers in the book. Encourage the students to try these poses, either individually or in groups.
5. In *Bollywood Beat!*, the second half of the book is a backward version of the first half. Similarly, palindromes are words that read the same backward and forward. Help students identify palindromes. Create a list of words and phrases that are palindromes, with suggestions from the children. (For example, “level” or “step on no pets” can be read forward or backward, resulting in the same word or phrase.)
6. For young children, play a game of “I Spy” with the book. As you read, ask them to recognize shapes, colors and objects.
7. Learn a few Bollywood dance steps.
  - a) With your feet parallel, step in place with your right foot, then bend your knees. Next, lift your left leg with your knee bent. Step-Bend-Lift!
  - b) Place your feet slightly apart. Place one hand on your hip and the other behind your head. Wiggle your hips.
  - c) Reach your arms for the sky. Twist your hands as if you are screwing in a lightbulb.
8. Encourage the children to improvise their own steps.
9. Compare and contrast the two sisters. Do the characters change from the beginning of the story to the end? If so, how?
10. Keep the conversation going after you have read the book.
  - Why do you think this book is called *Bollywood Beat!*? Little sister felt nervous before her dance recital. Older sister lent her dupatta to younger sister.
  - What object helps you feel calm and why?
  - How would you support an anxious friend?



Design and color an invitation to the Masala Magic Dance Recital

