

***The Bridge Home* Questions to Think About**

Viji and Rukku's parents are separated from their own families. What is the reason for this? And how does not being connected to aunts, uncles, cousins, and other extended family affect the two sisters?

Viji knows that some aspects of her life will be so much harder if she runs away with Rukku, but she proceeds with her decision anyway. Why?

How do Viji and Rukku come to view the deserted bridge as their new home? How does this place offer more peace than their life with Amma and Appa? How is the bridge a more difficult place to live?

Why does Viji share fairy tales with Rukku? How do Viji's stories change after meeting Arul and Muthu?

Arul's religious faith is important to him and he frequently shares his beliefs with the other children. How do the other children feel about religion?

In what ways do Arul, Viji, Rukku, and Muthu act like the children they are? In what ways are they forced to grow up?

When Muthu says, "Our palace is a home, inside my head... And those men can't wreck it ever, what does he mean?

When Celina Auntie says she can provide shelter and education to the children, why are the boys distrustful of her offer?

Just before the Diwali festival, a girl assumes Viji and Rukku are beggars and offers them cookies. How does the girl's charity make Viji feel?

Some people who have no family or are estranged from their families talk about their "Family of Choice", a group of people they have become close to who substitute for a family either out of necessity. Do you think Viji, Rukku, Arul, and Muthu are a Family of Choice? Why or why not?

The title *The Bridge Home* can have more than one meaning. One refers to the actual bridge where the girls make their home. What else could it mean?

Diwali

Diwali, the festival of lights is indeed the most awaited and the most celebrated festivals of India. People in every nook and cranny of the country welcome the festival with enthusiastic gestures. This wonderful festival is the celebration of five days. On the third day of the celebratory occasion, the key rituals of the Diwali festival take place. Lighting of Diyas and candles all around the house, worshipping the Laxmi Ganesha to summon health and wealth and bursting crackers are the chief rituals of the festival.

In addition to that, the exchange of heartfelt gifts during Diwali these days have become a mandatory part of the celebration. Friends, families, and colleagues share with each other Diwali gifts as a gesture of showing love and affection. Also, special and grand feast with delicious food that mandatorily includes different varieties of sweets is the special attraction of the occasion.

Rangoli

Indians love colors and its perfectly reflected in various ways. Rangoli is one such example that is a unique art work that is practiced by people all across India. Basically Rangoli is an art work that is done floors.









