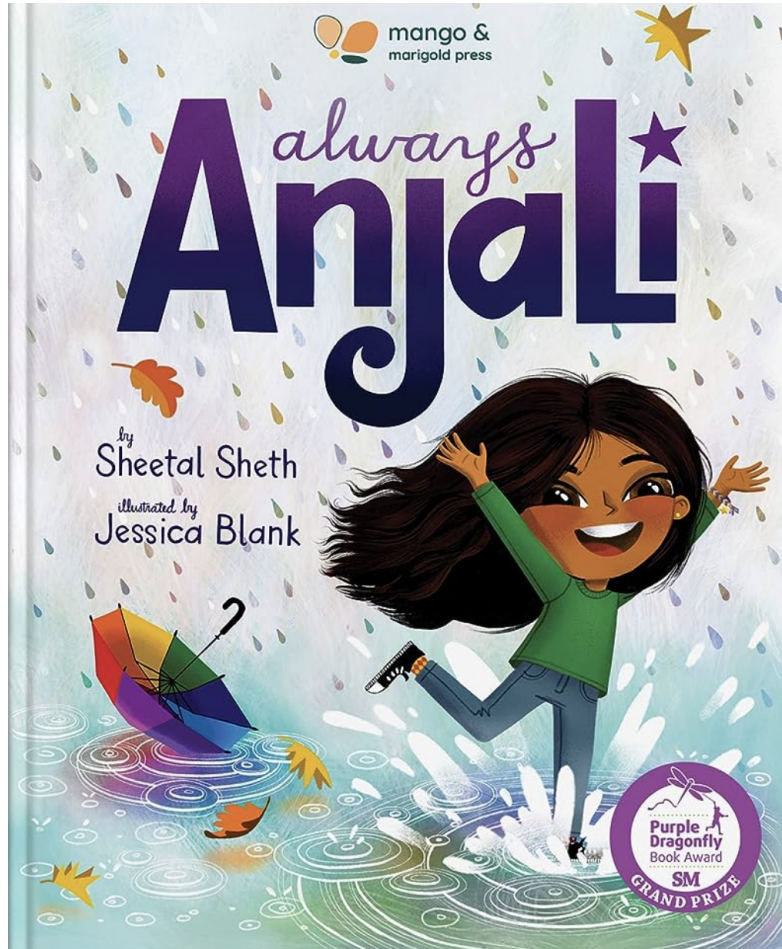


***Always Anjali* Discussion Guide**

Developed by Angie Moyer and Hayes Benenson for CU Boulder's Children Book Festival 2023,
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Always Anjali, written by Sheetal Sheth and illustrated by Jessica Blank

Published in 2018

Recommended for all ages

- **Summary**

- Anjali is a little girl on her seventh birthday. For her birthday, her parents got her a bicycle. She decided to join her friends and go to the school carnival on her new bike. There, they saw a stand selling license plates with names, and the girls thought they would be great to put on their bikes. Anjali's friends found their names, but Anjali didn't, because of her unique name. This is when one of the older boys started to make fun of Anjali and

her name. Upset, Anjali went home and told her parents she was going to change her name to Angie. When her parents refuse, Anjali is forced to take matters into her own hands. Anjali takes a closer look at who she is beyond her name, and discovers that being different means being marvelous.

- Discussion Questions: Before Reading
 - Do you know the meaning of your name?
 - Have you ever wanted to change your name?
 - Why is it important to respect the meaning and pronunciation of our friends' names?
- Discussion Questions: During and After Reading
 - Why do you think the boy bullied Anjali about her name?
 - Why is it important to know what our names mean?
 - What could the vendor have done to make Anjali feel more included?
 - Why do you think it is important for people to respect each other's names?
 - How did the illustration on the page where Anjali's mom is explaining the meaning of Anjali's name make you feel? Why?
- Extension Activities
 - Students could use the internet to research the meaning of their own names: where the names originated from, and their meaning. Students should also be encouraged to ask their parents at home.
 - As a crafts activity, students could create their own novelty license plates with their names. They should be encouraged to make their plates unique to them, with their likes and interests. It should be a reflection of their personal identities.