

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Thirst

by Varsha Bajaj



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

## What's It About?

Minni lives in the poorest part of Mumbai, where access to water is limited to a few hours a day and the communal taps have long lines. Lately, though, even that access is threatened by severe water shortages and thieves who are stealing this precious commodity—an act that Minni accidentally witnesses one night. Meanwhile, in the high-rise building where she just started to work, she discovers that water streams out of every faucet and there's even a rooftop swimming pool. What Minni also discovers there is one of the water mafia bosses. Now she must decide whether to expose him and risk her job and maybe her life. How did something as simple as access to water get so complicated?

- 2022 Global Read Aloud MG Pick!
- A New York Times Bestseller

## Who Wrote It?

My story begins in Mumbai, India, in the early 1960s in a rambling house built in 1929 surrounded by coconut, guava, and betel nut trees. I grew up in a large joint family. My father and grandfather were perfumers, always sniffing and perfecting blotter strips of sandalwood and jasmine. I devoured Amar Chitra Katha comic books with stories from Indian mythology and was introduced to Marathi children's theater by my parents. On September 13th, 1986, I came to America as a graduate student. After a dozen intermediate years in which I got a Master's degree, almost completed a doctorate, worked as a Counselor, got married, had children and became a citizen,



I started writing. It was 1999, and I'd fallen in love with the picture book while reading aloud to my kids. Varsha writes picture books and middle grade novels and now lives in Texas.

AR Reading Level: 4.4

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆

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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.