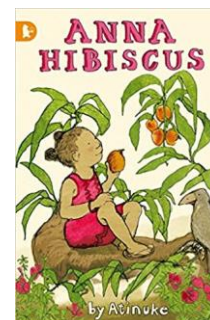


## Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

### Anna Hibiscus by Atinuke, illustrated by Lauren Tobia (Walker)



#### 1. Explore it

Look at the front cover and read the title.

- Who is Anna Hibiscus?
- What do you think you know about her?
- Where does she live? What tells you that?
- What is she doing? How does this make her feel? Have you ever felt like this?

Now read the extract from the book below:

*Anna Hibiscus lives with her mother, who is from Canada; her father, who is from Africa; her grandmother and her grandfather; her aunties and her uncles; lots and lots of cousins; and her twin baby brothers, Double and Trouble.*

*There are so many people in Anna's family that even she cannot count them all.*

*Anna Hibiscus is never lonely. There are always cousins to play and fight with; uncles and*

*aunties are always laughing and shouting; and her mother or father and grandmother and grandfather are always around.*

*To be alone in Anna Hibiscus's house you have to hide. Sometimes Anna squeezes into some cool, dusty, forgotten place and waits for that exciting moment when her family begins to call - and then a cousin or uncle finds her and her aunties thank God!*

What more have you learned about Anna Hibiscus and her family? Where do they live? What does Anna like doing there? What is special about the people in her family? Would you like to meet them? Can you tell who is who in the picture? Is this like your own family? Would you like to live there? Why? Why not?

#### 2. Illustrate it

Read the extract again and think about Anna and her family. How would you describe each of them? Why do you think they are each special to her? How are they described? What kinds of things do they do? How do they behave? Who most interests you? Why? What do you think Anna's family look like when they are all together? Can you draw a picture of what it might look like in their home when they all come around? What were different people doing in the piece of the story you read that you could include in your drawing?

When you have finished, look at how the illustrator, Lauren Tobia chose to illustrate the scene on the next page. What is similar and different about your illustrations? Remember, everyone has their own ideas and imagines things their own way. This is a good thing!



### 3. Talk about it:

- Why is Anna Hibiscus never lonely?
- Where are the best places to hide or to be alone? Are they always cool, dusty and forgotten?
- Do you ever like to be alone? Is being alone the same as being lonely?

### 4. Imagine it

Think about Anna's family life again and how there are always people around. Think about what Anna likes about her busy family life and where she enjoys being alone. What does she like about her tree? What does she like about squeezing in to cool, dusty and forgotten places?

Think about her game of hiding and the excitement of being found again. Where else might she find to hide? Draw another place that she could hide quietly in her busy household. Would it be inside or out? What else might there be in the garden that would offer a brilliant hiding place? What about in her house? How many rooms does it have? Will they have any forgotten places that she could squeeze under or inside? What would the rest of her family be doing?

You could draw a picture of Anna in her quiet hiding place and another one showing her excitement of being found. How would her feelings change? What would she be thinking? How would you show this in your drawing? How would you show her face change from waiting to excitement?

### 5. Create it

Think about Anna's family. How is it similar to your own? How is it different? What makes your family special? Are you a big family or a small one? Do you all live in the same house or apart? Draw your family to show one of your friends. They could do the same and you could talk about what makes each of your families special and unique. If you were to create a picture of your family life, what would you include? What would you all be wearing? What would you all be doing? What would each family member like you to include? Perhaps they do things that you don't know about? Could you ask them?

When you have completed your drawing, share it with your family and talk to each other about what makes each of you special individually and together as a family. What interests do you have outside of family life? What do you enjoy doing together? Where do you like to be alone? What kinds of things do you do? You could cover an old box in ways that you think represents your personality and interests and inside include drawings and stories about you and your family. Talk with your family about family stories you share and memories of experiences you have had. You could keep adding to your special box as you grow up.