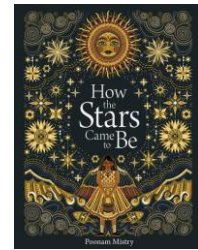


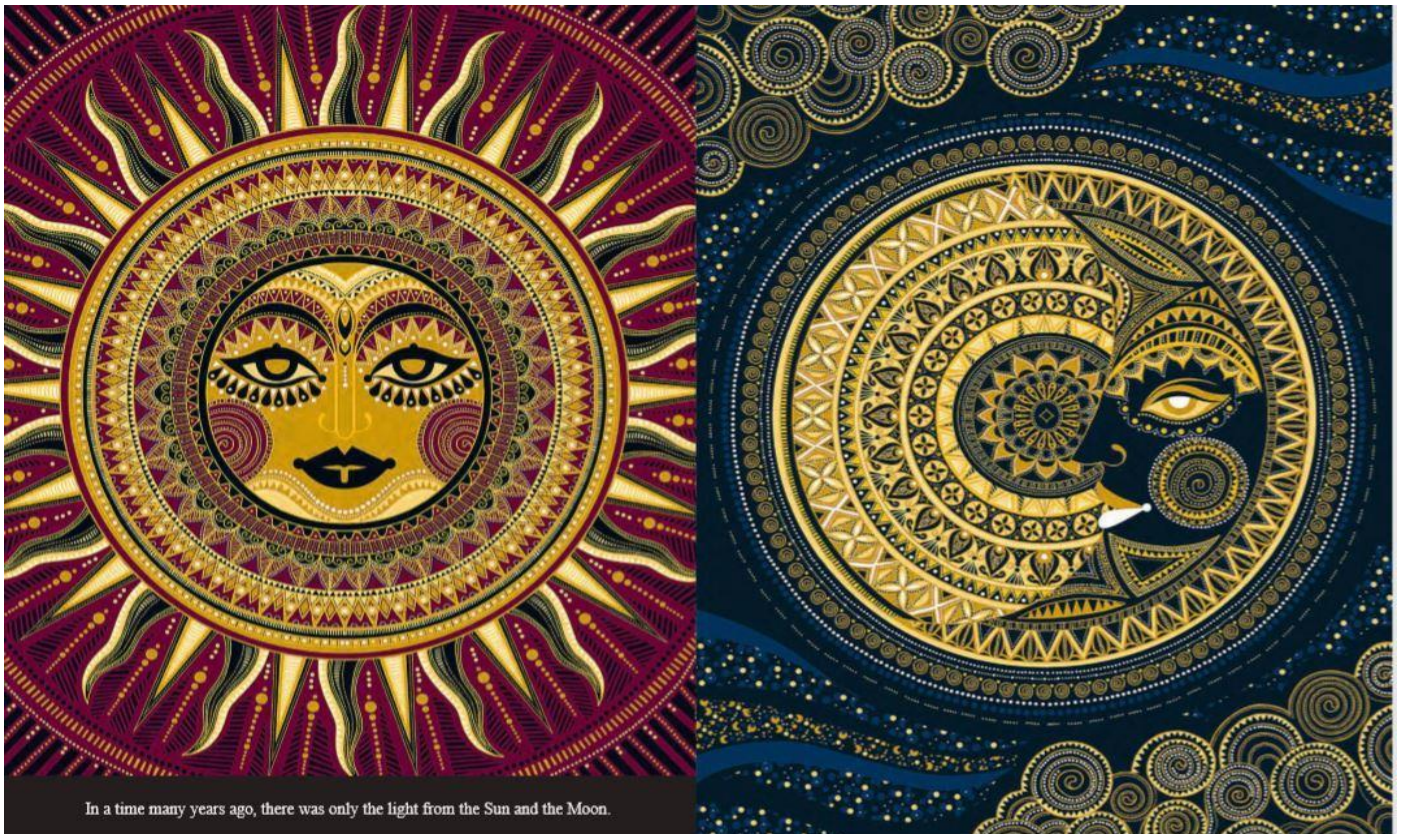
Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

How the Stars Came to Be by Poonam Mistry (Tate)



1. Explore it

Read the text on the spread below and look carefully at the illustration.



Look carefully at the illustration. How does it make you feel? What do you like or dislike about it? Why? Do they look like anything you have seen before? What is the impact of placing the sun on the moon on opposite pages? How does this relate to what we know about the sun and the moon? Explore each of the images. How can you describe them? How has the illustrator captured the unique nature of the sun and the moon from what we know about them?

Now think about the text on the page. At what point in the story do you think this spread sits? What makes you think this? What do you think it would mean to live in a world in which there was only light from the Sun and the Moon? What do you think it would look like at different points in the day? What would be missing? What do you think might happen in a story that begins in this way? How do you think it could end?

2. Illustrate it

Look at the distinct style of illustration used by Poonam Mistry and the patterns she uses to create her images and to illustrate the quality of the light.

Look particularly at the way different kinds of light are shown shining from the sun and the stars and reflecting from the moon on the dark background; the dots and lines of varying size; the symmetry and repetitions in the patterns created; the different tones of light colours to add depth to light and shade. Draw your own stars in the style of the illustrator. Look carefully at the shapes, colours and patterns used and see if you can do something similar. Look at the colour palette used – the subtle tones of yellow, white and gold on the dark background. If you have coloured pencils, felt tips, crayons or paints, use these to make your artwork as vivid as Poonam Mistry's. You could find objects around the home to print with to achieve a pattern or a repetitive design. If you have coloured paper or card, scissors and glue, you may want to cut shapes out to make a collage. Perhaps you could create the back cover. What else might feature?

3. Talk about it

- What kind of book do you think this is? What makes you think this? Do you know any other stories like this? Can you tell one to somebody else?
- The story tells us that there was **only** the light from the Sun and the Moon. Why is this word important in setting the scene? How does it make us feel about this time years ago?
- Would you like to live in a world of only light from the Sun and the Moon? Why? Why not? Do you think sunlight and moonlight is enough for everything we like or need to do?

4. Imagine it

Imagine a world with only light from shining from the Sun and reflected from the Moon. What would it look like? Spend time observing the way the sunlight and moonlight looks and behaves during the day and evening; how it shines and reflects on different surfaces, its brightness, the shapes it makes.

Now look at the other light sources that are all around you; at home and out and about. Which are natural and which are created by people? What do they look like? How do they affect the space around them? You might want to take photographs to record your observations. Can you imagine a world without them? Talk together about what it would look like and how it would change your experiences. Maybe you can draw familiar scenes at different times of day to reflect what you imagine.

5. Create it

Think about the way we rely on light to stay safe, enjoy activities, and engage in everyday activities. Think about the Sun, or the Moon or the stars. What do you like about each of them? Think about a particular light source that is important to you at home or out and about; a nightlight, a desk lamp, a streetlight, shop signs, car headlight etc. What is special about them? Why are they significant to you?

Focus on one of these objects and jot down some words to describe their function, the quality of the light they provide, why they are important to you and how you feel about it. Can you write a poem – or an ode – to capture your observations and feelings about your chosen object of light? How you can use language effectively to describe details and help your reader to appreciate it as you do?

You might want to explore and be inspired by the way odes sound and look on the page when written by professional poets such as Kate Wakeling's 'New Moon': <https://clpe.org.uk/poetryline/poems/new-moon> or Grace Nichols' 'Sun is Laughing': <https://clpe.org.uk/poetryline/poems/sun-laughing> Read your poem to an audience when it's finished – you might even want to record it!