

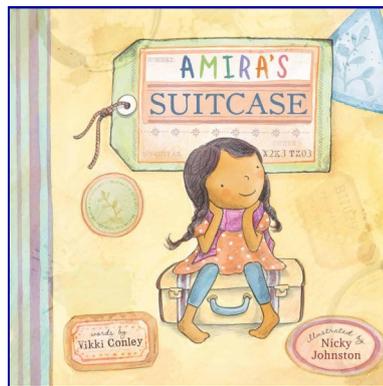
## **Amira's Suitcase**

By Vikki Conley & Illustrated by Nicky Johnston

Publisher: New Frontier Publishing

ISBN 9781922326133 SCIS: 5361590

It begins with a tiny seed growing inside a suitcase. With Amira's care, the tiny seed starts to sprout. Find out what happens when kindness flourishes . . . *Amira's Suitcase* is a gentle, thought-provoking tale about friendship and hope.



*Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.*

### **Themes:**

- Friendship
- Inclusivity
- Kindness
- Hope

### **Discussion Questions:**

*Before, during and after reading the book:*

- Introduce *Amira's Suitcase* to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about. Why is Amira sitting on a suitcase?
- Where do they think Amira lives?
- Why do they think Amira is looking for somewhere to hide?
- Ask the children if they've ever grown anything from seed? Maybe cress? How did they help it grow? What do you need for a seed to grow?
- Why do they think Amira calls the seed her new friend?
- What sort of person do they think Amira is?
- Stop on page 13. Ask the children why they think Amira 'felt a bud of warmth flicker in her tummy'?
- Ask the children if they've ever had vivid dreams, like Amira when she's picking a pear.
- After reading the book, ask them what did they think of the story? What was their favourite part and why?

### **Activity—Super Seeds!**

Grow your own cress in a few days (or alfalfa sprouts, chia seeds or carrot tops)!

*You will need:*

- A yoghurt pot (if you don't have one, why don't you try a clean egg shell?); Cotton wool; Kitchen roll ; Cress seeds (or other seeds); Water

*Instructions:*

- Take the label off a yoghurt pot.
- Put wet kitchen roll in the bottom and damp cotton wool on top.
- Evenly spread some cress seeds on top of the cotton wool and press down gently.
- Place the pot near some sunlight.
- Watch the cress grow! This should happen after 5 to 7 days.