BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

One Sweet Song by Jyoti Rajan Gopal

Book Summary

One Sweet Song by Jyoti Rajan Gopal is a rhythmic and joyful story about how a single sweet note played by one musician inspires others in the neighborhood to join in. Over time, more people add their voices and instruments, creating a beautiful, unified song that brings the entire community together. The story celebrates connection, creativity, and the power of music to unite us all—no matter our age or the instruments we play.

Before Reading the Story

- Look at the cover of the book. What do you think the story will be about?
- What shape is the instrument the girl is holding?
- How do you feel when you hear music?
- Tell me about a time when you heard music in your home, neighborhood, or school.
- What is your favorite song? Can you sing any of the words?

Target Vocabulary

- **perched:** to sit
- **croon:** to sing softly
- **gleam:** a small bright light
- **rhythm:** a pattern of sounds or beats
- **embrace:** to hug
- **linger:** to slowly fade away
- **instrument:** an object used to make music
- **tune:** a musical piece or a part of a song

BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child re-read the book in their own words using the illustrations.
- The song in the story started with just one person. What happened as more people joined in?
- If you could play any instrument in one sweet song, which one would you choose?
- The people in the story worked together to create a beautiful song. Tell me about an activity you could complete by working together with family members or classmates.

Example Questions to Ask

- Who was the first person to start playing music? Who was the next person to join in?
- What happened as more neighbors heard the song?
- Can you tell me some of the instruments that were used?
- What do you notice about the pictures as the song gets louder and more people join in?
- There are musical notes on each page. Let's count them together!
- How do you think the people felt when they were making music together?