

Little Rebels Exploring Social Justice

Ajay and the Mumbai Sun

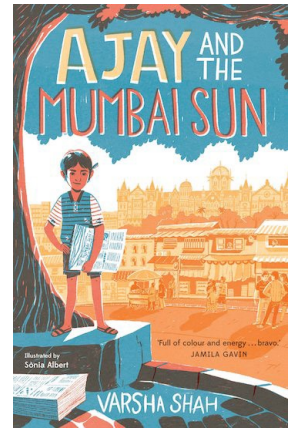
by *Varsha Shah*

with illustrations by *Sònia Albert*

Chicken House

A group of children living amidst the Mumbai railways come together to fight the excesses of corporate capitalism - child labour, corruption, Western hypocrisy, social inequality- through peaceful protest and through the mighty power of the pen!

Shortlisted for the 2023 Little Rebels Book Award



Social Justice Themes: Inequality; Access; Equal Treatment; Well-being

Things to talk about

- What does the reader learn about the protagonist Ajay in the opening chapter, his character and his circumstances? How does the author convey this?
- Vinod is discriminated against and mistreated because of his position in the Indian Caste system. What do you understand about this form of social hierarchy? Does the country you live in have a social hierarchy? Is it fair?
- Ajay longs to be a journalist. What do journalists do and do you think it is an important job?
- How does local politician Mrs Shania behave after the Mumbai Sun writes the story about the demolition of the slum? What is her role in connection with this?
- Chapter 17 explores some important questions regarding the factory where Yasmin works. What do you think the author is highlighting here?

Activities

- Design a newspaper front page with the main feature being on an issue that you feel strongly about.

Extended

- According to the charity unicef, 'Every 5 minutes a child arrives at a railway platform in India alone and vulnerable'. Do some research on India's Railway Children. Where do they come from and why? What does their future look like?

For more information about The Little Rebels Book Award visit littlerebels.org