


Priya's Mask



**COMIC BOOK
STUDENT'S MATERIALS**

REGIONAL 
ENGLISH 
LANGUAGE 
OFFICE 

 U.S. Embassy, India

Priya's Mask



Read the comic book, "Priya's Mask" at www.priyashakti.com/curriculum



PRIYA'S MASK PART 1

BEFORE YOU READ

A. Meet Priya

Priya is a young woman who fights for justice and the common good. Look at her and her tiger friend Sahas. How would *you* describe her? Tick the adjectives.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 anxious | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 brave |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 interesting | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 weak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 strong | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 unusual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 cowardly | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 boring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 typical | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 confident |



B. Critical thinking

Compare the adjectives you chose in Activity A in pairs. *Why* did you choose them? Discuss your ideas.

Example:

I think Priya is unusual because she has a tiger friend.

I agree. I also think Priya is unusual because she can ride a tiger.

C. Vocabulary

Read the adjectives in Activity A again. Match the opposites.

D. Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Match the underlined words to their definitions.
Which two words mean the same thing?

- A** You can recover easily from some diseases, but others can harm your health for a long time.
- B** I haven't been well for a few days, but I don't think I have anything contagious.
You can come closer.
- C** The symptoms of his illness were a headache, a fever, and a sore throat.
- D** Childhood is the time when many people get vaccinations to protect them from dangerous illnesses.
- E** Hospital workers must be careful because they are in contact with many infectious people.
- F** My mother has been very tired for weeks now. The doctors think she has a virus.

- 1 ____ changes in the body that show someone is not well
- 2 ____ a small thing that gets into the body and then causes an illness
- 3 ____ things that are put into the body to protect against specific illnesses
- 4 ____ the ability of an illness to spread between people
- 5 ____ illnesses in humans or animals

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

In order to guess the meaning of words, think about the part of speech, for example, noun or adjective. Look for clues in the sentences. For example, is there an article like *a*, *an* or *the* before the word? Does the word end in *s*? If so, could it be a plural form? Identify the parts of speech of the underlined words in Activity D.

E. Connect to science

In this story, Priya helps people to fight a dangerous virus. Which diseases have you heard of? Tick them.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 flu / influenza | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 polio | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 malaria |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 coronavirus / COVID-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 measles | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 tuberculosis |

F. Speaking

Compare your answers with a partner. What do you know about these illnesses?
Discuss the following questions with your partner or group.

- 1 How is the disease spread?
- 2 Is there a vaccine to prevent the disease?
- 3 Is the disease contagious?
- 4 What are the symptoms of the disease?

I WHILE YOU READ

A. Setting the scene

Look at the page. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Who are the characters?
- 2 Where are they?

B. Comprehension

Read the page. Circle T (True) or F (False).

- 1 T F Sahas hasn't seen her friends in a long time.
- 2 T F Sahas's friends want her to leave with Priya.
- 3 T F Priya helps Sahas more than Sahas helps her.
- 4 T F Priya gets a message through the water.

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

Sometimes people tell us things without saying them directly. So, we can **make an inference** based on the facts and information we have. For example, Meena said, "I had my umbrella, but I still got wet on my way home!" Meena didn't tell us about the weather, but we can **infer** what it was like. She had her umbrella, and we know she got wet, so we can infer that it was raining heavily. Remember that inferences are guesses, so it is not possible to be 100% sure! But, being able to make an inference is a useful critical thinking tool and draws your attention to important information.

C. Critical thinking

Look at the picture. Read the sentences. What can you infer? Tick the three likely inferences.



- 1 The tigers sometimes see people in their forest.
- 2 The tigers look forward to seeing people in their forests.
- 3 The tigers are happier today than they usually are.
- 4 The air is not usually as clean as it is today.
- 5 The tigers cannot always see the mountains as well as they can today.

D. Speaking

Why did you choose the inferences in Activity C? Give reasons. Discuss your ideas.

E. Setting the scene

Look at page 4. Tell the story in your own words with a group.

F. Comprehension

The following sentences summarize this page of the story. Number the sentences (1-4) in order.

- A ____ Priya is confused and doesn't think she can help.
- B ____ The goddess gives Priya something to protect herself and others.
- C ____ Priya and Sahas accept the challenge and fly toward the city.
- D ____ A goddess tells Priya that the world needs her help to fight a virus.

G. Vocabulary

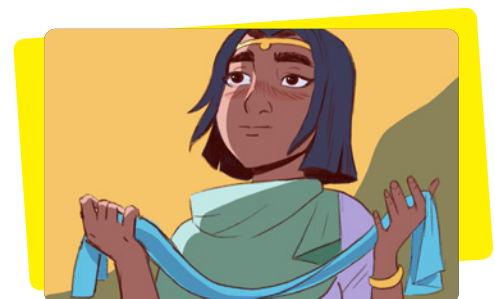
Look at the frame and read the text. Match the phrases and sentences from the text to those with the same meaning.



- 1 You carry a heart of compassion...
 - 2 Now the world is faced with an invisible force...
 - 3 ... A virus, unlike any other you have met.
 - 4 What can I do against an invisible force?
- A Something that cannot be seen is making problems for people.
 - B You have fought against many bad things, but this is different from all of those things.
 - C You are kind, and you care a lot about other people.
 - D I don't know what to do.

H. Predicting

Look at the picture. What do you think the goddess gave Priya? Why?



II WHILE YOU READ

A. Checking your prediction

Look at the page and read it quickly. What did the goddess give Priya? Why?

B. Comprehension

Read the page again. Complete the summary with the words. Write the letters on the lines.

A out B masks C toward D homes E leaving F empty

Sahas and Priya fly **1** ___ the city. People are **2** ___ the city. They are wearing **3** ___ on their faces. Priya puts on the mask she received from the goddess because it will help keep the virus **4** ___. In the city, the streets are **5** ___ because the people are inside their **6** ___.

C. Critical thinking

Look at the picture. Think about Sahas's words: "I sense a quiet fear here." Why do you think she says this?



D. Connect to science

Think about the diseases you discussed before you read the comic. Which virus do you think Priya and Sahas are going to help people fight? Why?

E. Comprehension

Read page 6. Match the beginnings and ends of the sentences.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Meena doesn't know when | A Priya is a princess. |
| 2 Meena thinks | B she will see her friends again. |
| 3 Everyone has to stay home because | C her mother works late at the hospital. |
| 4 Meena helps at home because | D people are getting sick. |

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

Words with the same meaning are **synonyms**, for example, *scared* and *afraid*, or *little* and *small*.

F. Vocabulary

Read page again. Choose the synonym for each underlined word.

- Are you a magical tiger and princess?
a ordinary b enchanted c talented
- Why are you so sad?
a unhappy b cheerful c bored
- Make sure you listen to your father.
a ignore b hear c pay attention to
- I don't know what time I will return.
a come back b replace c depart
- It's important for me to be at the hospital, taking care of sick people.
a look after b neglect c repair

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

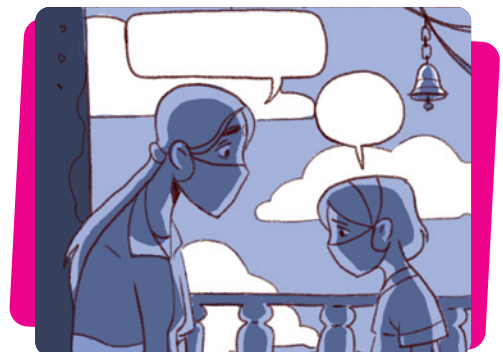
Words with the opposite meanings are **antonyms**, for example, *dirty* and *clean*, or *little* and *big*.

G. Vocabulary

Read the sentences in Activity F again. Choose the antonym for each underlined word.

H. Be creative

Think about the story and the characters. What other things might Meena and her mother say to each other in this frame. Act or describe your ideas.



III WHILE YOU READ

A. Using visual cues

Look at the bottom of page 6 and the top of page 7. How do these pictures look different from the others on the pages? Why do you think they are different?

B. Predicting

Read page 7 quickly. Where do you think Priya is taking Meena? Why?

C. Comprehension

Read the first two frames on page 7 again. Tick the true sentences. Correct the false sentences in pairs.

- 1 Meena doesn't go to the park with her mother now.
- 2 Meena's mother made *kheer* for her in the past, but she doesn't now.
- 3 Meena's mother reads stories to her now.
- 4 Meena shares her feelings with her friends a lot these days.
- 5 Meena sees her friends a lot these days.

D. Using visual cues

Look at the picture and read the text. What do you notice about the spelling of some of the words? Why do you think they are spelled like this? Discuss your ideas in pairs.



E. Critical thinking

Sahas says, "The birds tell me they have come into the city since the air is now cleaner." Why do you think the air is now cleaner? Is this positive or negative? Why?

F. Using visual cues

How does the city look in the pictures? What colors are used most? Why?

G. Comprehension

Answer the questions.

- 1 Who is Meena's friend?
- 2 Who does Meena's friend want to visit?
- 3 Where does Meena's mom take her? What is it like at this place now?
- 4 What do Meena and Priya hear while they are flying over the city?

H. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and read the text again. Answer the questions.

- 1 Have you ever heard any of the things the people are saying? Do you agree with them? Why or why not?
- 2 What do Priya's words mean to you?



III WHILE YOU READ

A. Checking your prediction

Look at the page and read it quickly. Where did Priya take Meena? How do you know?

B. Comprehension

Read the page again. Circle T (True) or F (False).

- 1 T F Meena's mother is a nurse in the hospital.
- 2 T F The ill woman's family is not permitted to visit her in the hospital.
- 3 T F Meena's mother is certain that the woman will be fine.
- 4 T F The nurses who care for the ill people are not at risk.

C. Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Choose the best synonym for each underlined word.

Write the letter on the line.

A visit B check C in harm's way D temperature E relax F drops by

- 1 ____ The elderly woman probably feels very hot because she has a fever.
- 2 ____ The elderly woman cannot get out of bed and walk around because she needs to rest.
- 3 ____ Priya's mother wants to test the elderly woman's friend for illness.
- 4 ____ The hospital won't permit the elderly woman's brother to see her in her room, but he still comes by the hospital to find out about her condition.
- 5 ____ Priya's mother understands that she is putting her life at risk to do her job.

D. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and read the text. What can you infer? Tick the inferences you can make.



- 1 The elderly woman may have caught the illness from her friend.
- 2 The elderly woman probably wears masks in some places when outside of her home.
- 3 Priya's mother doesn't think the elderly woman's friend is ill or contagious.
- 4 The elderly woman might feel less frightened if her family could visit.
- 5 The elderly woman's family is probably also ill or contagious.
- 6 Priya's mother thinks the elderly woman will be fine.

E. Connect to the world

In the last picture on page 9, the elderly woman thanks Meena's mother for risking her life to care for her. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Why do you think the elderly woman thinks hospital workers are risking their lives? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?
- 2 What can you see in the comic that shows the precautions taken to keep hospital workers safe? What do each of these things do to protect the hospital workers?

F. Using visual cues

Look at page 10, but do NOT read it. In pairs, describe what is happening in your own words.

G. Comprehension

Now read page 10 and answer the questions in a notebook.

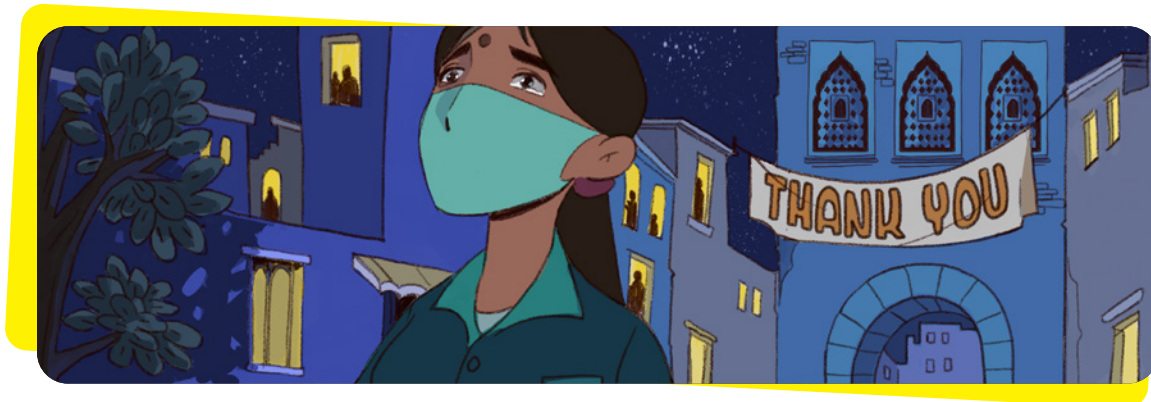
- 1 Why is Meena's mother spending a lot of time away from her?
- 2 Why does Meena want to be strong for her mother?
- 3 What do Meena and her neighbors do for Meena's mother?
- 4 How does Meena's mother feel about Meena's actions?

H. Using visual cues

Look at the questions in Activity G again. Which questions could you answer by reading the text? Which could you answer by looking at the pictures? Discuss your answers in groups.

I. Be creative

Look at the picture of Meena's mother from the comic. What do you think she will say? Write her words.



AFTER YOU READ

A. Comprehension

Discuss the following questions in groups.

- 1 Why was Meena sad?
- 2 How did Priya help Meena to cope with her feelings?
- 3 Did Meena's feelings change? How do you know?

B. Project

Meena organizes her neighbors to show their appreciation for her mother. In groups, brainstorm ways to show appreciation for those in your community who are fighting the virus and helping to keep people safe. Consider the following questions:

- 1 Who are the people?
- 2 What are they doing?
- 3 Why is this important?
- 4 Where are the people?
- 5 How can you connect safely with them?
- 6 How can you encourage others to join your efforts?

C. Do it!

Put your project into action. For example: Meena's class wrote a letter to a neighbor who makes masks for people in the neighborhood who don't have them.

Dear Ms. _____,

Thank you very much for making masks for people in need. This work is important because it protects everyone. This is helpful for our neighborhood and all the neighborhoods of our city. Everyone in my class is so grateful to you!

Sincerely,
Meena

PRIYA'S MASK PART 2

BEFORE YOU READ

A. Meet Burka Avenger

In the second part of the story, Priya visits her friend Burka Avenger. Look at the picture below and read the text from the first two pictures on page 11. Make a list of adjectives to describe Burka Avenger.



B. Discussion

In groups, compare your lists describing Burka Avenger. How are they similar or different? Discuss why you chose the words.

Example:

I think Burka Avenger is intelligent because she's a teacher.

I agree. I also think Burka Avenger is Muslim because she wears a Burka.

C. Critical thinking

In what ways do you think Priya and Burka Avenger are like other superheroes that you know? Discuss your ideas in groups.

I WHILE YOU READ

A. Using visual cues

Look at page 11, but do NOT read it. In pairs, describe what is happening in your own words.

B. Comprehension

Read page 11. Check the true sentences. Correct the false sentences in pairs.

- 1 ___ Jiya and Burka Avenger are friends.
- 2 ___ Jiya is a teacher and the mayor of Chutneyville.
- 3 ___ All the people of Chutneyville know that Jiya is Burka Avenger.
- 4 ___ Baba Kaboom leads a group of evildoers.
- 5 ___ Baba Kaboom doesn't think masks are necessary, and his gang agrees with him.
- 6 ___ Baba Kaboom wants to take over Chutneyville.
- 7 ___ Baba Kaboom wants the virus to spread through Chutneyville.
- 8 ___ Baba Kaboom is going to get help from his gang to spread the virus.

C. Vocabulary

Look at the picture of Baba Kaboom and read the true sentences about him. Match the underlined words to their definitions. Write the letters on the lines.



- 1 Burka Avenger has had to stop Baba Kaboom many times in the past. He is her nemesis.
- 2 Baba Kaboom is a malevolent character who has often tried to harm the people of Chutneyville.
- 3 Baba Kaboom heaps verbal abuse on his gang by calling them troglodytes and cowards.
- 4 Baba Kaboom thinks he can take over Chutneyville by helping the virus to proliferate throughout the city.

1 ___ nemesis

2 ___ malevolent

3 ___ heap

4 ___ verbal abuse

5 ___ take over

6 ___ proliferate

A to give a lot of something to someone

B an opponent, enemy or foe that one competes with or battles for power

C unfair or hurtful words against someone

D to increase in number or amount or to spread

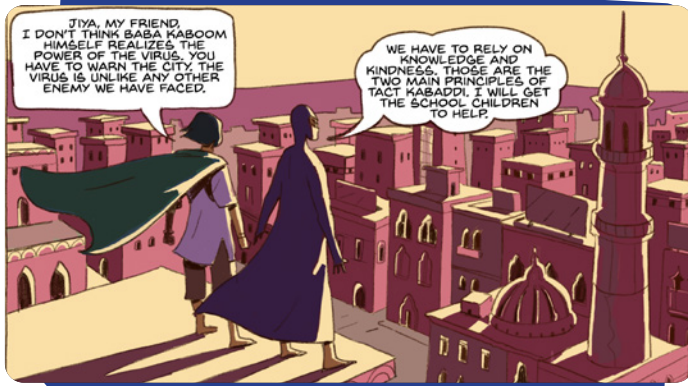
E to dominate or control something by taking power from someone else

F bad or evil

II WHILE YOU READ

A. Vocabulary

Look at the picture from the comic and read the text. Match the words from the text to their synonyms.



- 1 — realize
- 2 — power
- 3 — warn
- 4 — enemy
- 5 — face
- 6 — reply
- 7 — principle
- 8 — main

- A strength
- B belief
- C key
- D depend
- E encounter
- F foe
- E advise
- F understand

B. Speaking

Burka Avenger practices *tact kabaddi*, her unique martial art that uses pens, pencils, and books. Think about other superheroes you know about. How is Burka Avenger's fighting style similar to or different from theirs? Discuss your ideas in groups.

C. Comprehension

Read page 12 and answer the questions.

- 1 Is this virus similar to other viruses?
- 2 How do Burka Avenger and Priya think that people can battle the virus?
- 3 What do the children think Ms. Jiya would want them to do?
- 4 Has Baba Kaboom been a problem for the people of Chutneyville in the past? How do you know?
- 5 How does Baba Kaboom think he can control people? Do you think this plan will work?

D. Vocabulary

Read the words below. Find their antonyms on page 12. Use a dictionary if you need help.

1 similar to

2 separate or split

3 neglect or ignore

III WHILE YOU READ

A. Predicting

Look at the picture from the comic and read the children's dialogue about Baba Kaboom. How do you think Burka Avenger will respond? Write what you think she will say.



B. Checking your prediction

Read Burka Avenger's response. How does it compare to your prediction? Discuss your answers in groups.

C. Comprehension

Read all of page 13. Tick the true sentences. Correct the false sentences.

- 1 ___ People are hiding inside their homes because they are afraid of Baba Kaboom.
- 2 ___ Burka Avenger thinks Baba Kaboom should leave the city immediately.
- 3 ___ The children aren't sure they should help Baba Kaboom.
- 4 ___ Burka Avenger agrees that Baba Kaboom has been a problem for everyone in the past.

D. Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Match the underlined words to their meanings.

- 1 Vaishali is very compassionate, so we weren't surprised when she decided to study medicine.
- 2 Our parents said we weren't allowed to go the match, but instead of getting angry, we were mature and accepted their decision.
- 3 We all became very emotional when my mother came home from the hospital.
- 4 Raj is very naive. He thinks it is easy to become a famous actor.
- 5 Although he broke his mother's vase, he did the noble thing and admitted it.

- A not having a good understanding about the world or the difficulty of things
- B behaving in a way that shows careful and considerate judgment
- C having a strong moral character, even if it may be to one's disadvantage
- D being aware of other's problems and wanting to help them
- E showing one's feelings easily

E. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and read what Burka Avenger says. Look at the underlined words from Activity D. Choose the words that describe her attitude? Why did you choose these words?



IV WHILE YOU READ

A. Using visual cues

Look at page 14, but do NOT read it. In pairs, describe what is happening in your own words.

B. Comprehension

Now read page 14. The following are the answers to questions about the page. Write a question for each answer.

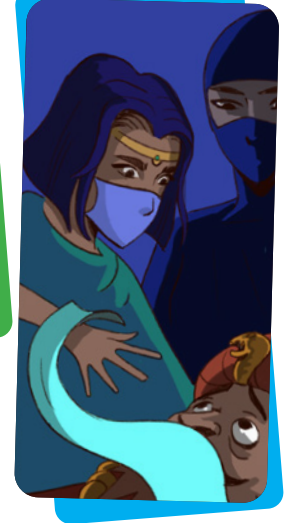
- 1 Because he thinks the tiger is going to eat him.
- 2 To the hospital.
- 3 Priya and Sahas are Burka Avenger's friends.
- 4 She gives him a piece of green cloth to use as a mask.
- 5 A mask can help protect people from the virus.
- 6 We need compassion for each other in order to survive.

C. Critical thinking

What does Burka Avenger mean by *We will not survive without compassion for each other*? Discuss your ideas in groups. Give examples to support your ideas.

D. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures of Priya and Burka Avenger. Think of three words to describe the relationship between Priya and Burka Avenger. Use a dictionary if necessary. Discuss your ideas in groups.



E. Critical thinking

Think about the words you chose for Activity D. Which of these words is most important in the pandemic? Why did you choose this word?

AFTER YOU READ

A. Comprehension

Think about the comic. Answer the questions in groups. Give examples to support your ideas.

- 1 How do characters in the comic protect themselves from the virus?
- 2 How do characters in the comic show kindness and compassion?

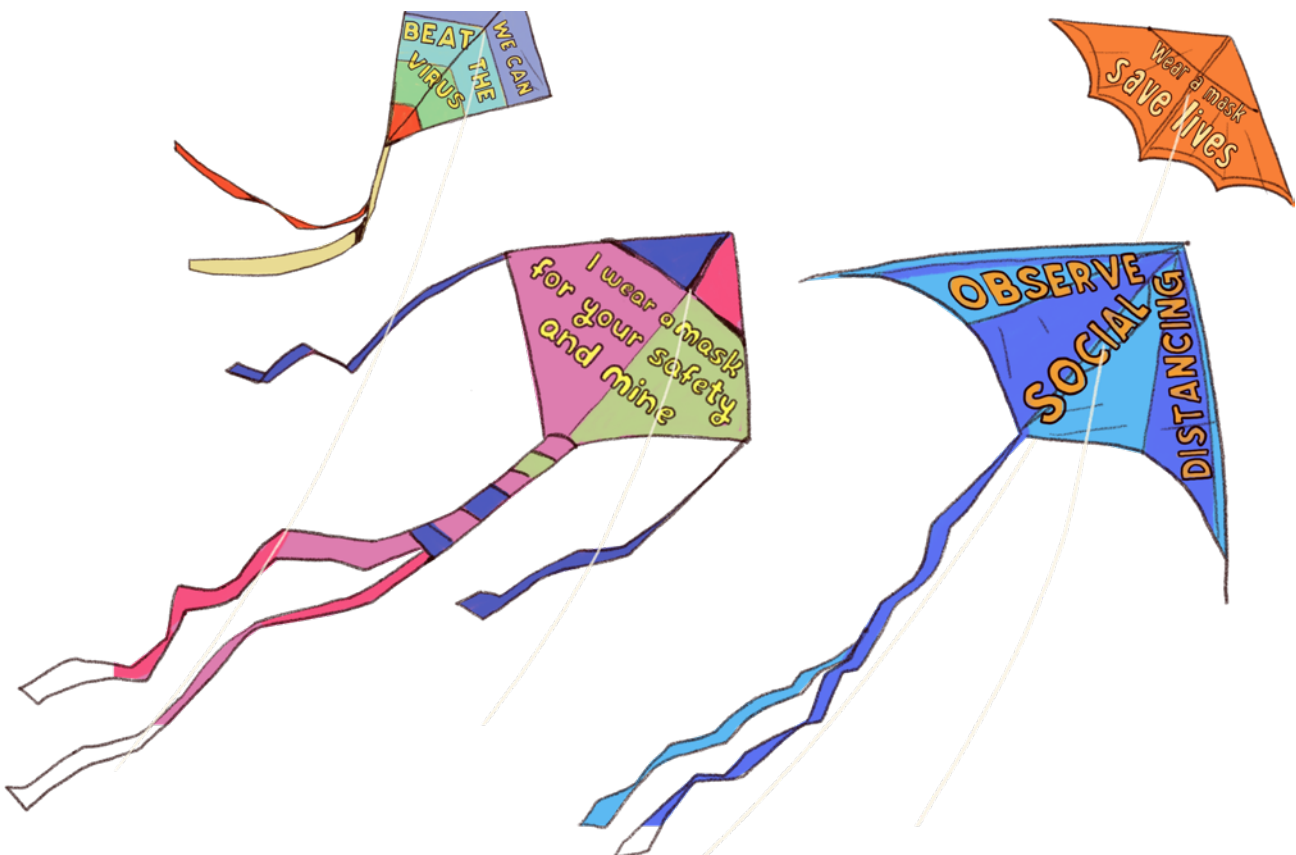
B. Connecting to your world

Think about the comic and your community. Discuss the questions in groups. Give examples.

- 1 Why does combatting the virus need everyone to come together?
- 2 What different things could people in the community do?
- 3 Which other ways can we show compassion to those who have COVID? List as many ideas as you can think of.

C. Project

People in the comic fly kites with messages from their rooftops. Design a kite or a poster of a kite with a message of strength, hope or compassion for those battling COVID. Present your ideas to the class.



Priya's Mask

"Priya's Mask" comic book, animated film, and teaching and learning materials were developed in coordination with the North India Office (NIO) and the Regional English Language Office (RELO) of the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi. The project was funded through a grant from the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi. "Priya's Mask" copyright © 2020 by Rattapallax, Inc.

"Priya's Mask" teaching and learning materials: This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License, except where noted.

To view a copy of this license, visit: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



This material can be reproduced with attribution to the Regional English Language Office (RELO), the North India Office (NIO), and the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi.

<https://in.usembassy.gov/education-culture/study-usa/regional-english-language-office-relo/>
Regional English Language Office: RELOIndia@state.gov

Priya's Mask Creative Team: Ram Devineni, Shubhra Prakash,
Tanvi Gandhi, Indrani Ray, and Monika Samtani

Illustrations: Syd Fini and Neda Kazemifar.

Writer of Teaching and Learning Materials: Susan Iannuzzi

Advisor: Ruth Goode

Special Thanks: North India Office, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi and Maria Snarski.

More information on comic book and animated film at www.priyashakti.com

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

www.CDC.gov

Rattapallax





TOGETHER
WE CAN
BEAT
THE
VIRUS

Wear a mask
Save lives

I wear a mask
for your safety
and mine

OBSERVE
SOCIAL
DISTANCING