

# Masala Chai, Fast and Slow

AUTHOR

**RAJANI LAROCCA**

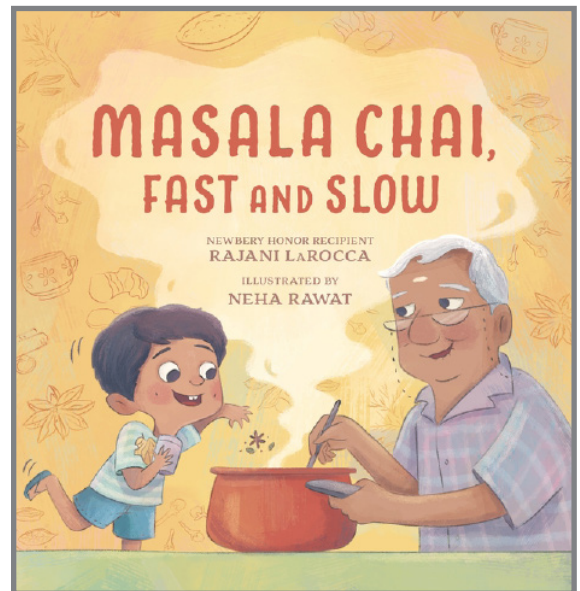
ILLUSTRATOR

**NEHA RAWAT**

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Aarav loves his grandfather very much, but they're as different as water and molasses. Where Aarav runs and races, Thatha likes to saunter and stroll.

Every day at five o'clock, Thatha makes masala chai for the family, and no matter how much Aarav urges him to hurry, Thatha insists on taking his time. 'Masala chai cannot be rushed,' says Thatha. 'It must be made carefully.' One day, when Thatha sprains his ankle and must rest on the couch, Aarav eagerly decides he'd like to make the chai himself—after all, what would make his grandfather feel better than a cup of warm, spiced sweetness? But no matter how hard Aarav tries, his rushing causes him to miss some crucial step. Will Aarav be able to slow down and get the recipe right?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rajani LaRocca was born in Bangalore, India, and immigrated to the US when she was a baby. She grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, graduated from Harvard with both a BA and an MD, and has worked as a primary care physician since 2001. She is the author of several books for young readers, including the Newbery Honor Book *Red, White and Whole* and the picture book *I'll Go and Come Back*, illustrated by Sara Palacios. Rajani LaRocca lives in Concord, Massachusetts, with her family.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Neha Rawat is an award winning children's book illustrator from India. She spent a few years working as an engineer before her passion for art and visual storytelling led her to specialise in children's illustration. Neha can be found cuddling dogs, doing yoga, and hiking when not working in her studio.

Visit Neha at <https://www.nrbstudio.in>.

## STUDY NOTES

### BEFORE READING

- View the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
  - The title of the book
  - The author/illustrator
  - The publisher
  - The blurb.

- What do you think the story might be about from looking at the **title** only? Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attentions and give them some idea of what the book is about. How do you think the story will begin/end?
  - Based on the **cover**, what do you think this story is about? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Write your own story using the title of the picture book.

## WHILE READING

### Exploring the Text

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text. What techniques can you find in this text? eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

### Exploring the Illustrations

- How do the illustrations add to the story?
- Do you think the illustrator has effectively told the story visually?
- Cover the text in the book and write your own story following the illustrations.
- Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion, using the questions below, about the illustration decisions.
  - How do the illustrations add to the story?
  - How do you think the people are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
  - Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?
  - Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
  - Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
  - Are any of the words bigger on the page than the others? Why could that be?