

Summer Reading
English 9 Standard
Children of the River

I. Answer the following questions after reading the novel.

1. Describe Sundara. What kind of a person is she?
2. What is Sundara struggling with? Does she seem to have much control over her future?
3. What do Jonathan and Sundara like about each other?
4. How do some of the other kids at school treat Sundara?
5. What do you think it would be like to leave your parents and your home to come to a new country? Have you or someone you know ever experienced this?
6. Why do you think Sundara's family is so strict?
7. In many countries of the world, people do not pick their spouses. They are arranged by family instead. What are some of the advantages for this? What are the disadvantages? Would you ever want your marriage to be arranged?
8. Jonathan tells Sundara that she is brave. How is she brave? What constitutes bravery for you?
9. What does the title of this book mean?
10. What do you think might happen to Sundara in the future?

II. Three Points of View

1. In many cultures, pre-arranged marriages are perfectly normal. It seems strange to us, but many girls throughout the world have their lifetime mates chosen for them by their family. After reading the novel Children of the River, write a paragraph from Uncle Naro's point of view that details the reasons prearranged marriage is better than the "American way" of marrying for love. Then write a paragraph from Sundara's point of view describing the benefits of choosing your own marriage partner. In a third paragraph share your own ideas about the prearranged marriages.