

STORIES FOR SOUTH ASIAN SUPER GIRLS RAJ KAUR KHAIRA

F	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				✓	✓	✓				

Writing	
Ideas	✓
Organisation	✓
Voice	
Word Choice	✓
Sentence Fluency	✓
Conventions	✓
Presentation	



Reading	
Determining Importance	✓
Inferring	✓
Making Connections	✓
Predicting	
Questioning	✓
Summarising & Synthesising	✓
Visualising	

When author Raj Kaur Khaira first read about Pritam Kaur Hayre – an uneducated woman from India who successfully campaigned for improved worker’s rights for immigrants - she felt compelled to share stories of other inspiring South-East Asian women. This book contains 50 short biographies of a range of fabulous women, including: a tennis star, writers, artists, the first female engineer at Facebook, singers, entrepreneurs and even a defiant monarch.

Writing

IDEAS: Read the author’s note explaining where the idea came for the book. What are your students passionate about? What messages, stories, or ideas would they like to share with the world? Note the length of these biographies. The author could not tell every detail about each woman’s life, so she had to make decisions about what type and how much information she included. These ideas have therefore been through the ‘ideas funnel’ to become tight and manageable. **ORGANISATION:** Examine the structure of a few of these biographies. What information does the writer start with? (Refreshingly, they aren’t all in perfect chronological order- they often start with the end and then go back to the start.) Students could experiment with a similar structure in their own biographical writing. **SENTENCE FLUENCY:** In order to pack a lot more detail into every paragraph, the author often uses a series of complex sentences throughout her pieces. Pull some of these sentences apart and use them as mentor models for students to increase the complexity of their own writing.

Reading

MAKING CONNECTIONS: What do you already know about these women? What would you like to know? After reading a few of the biographies, students could conduct further research on the women. They could build a larger biographical picture of the specific woman’s life and journey (and use this to reflect on how much information had to be left out of this single-page biography). **QUESTIONING:** Who else deserves to be represented in this book? What are the similarities in the stories? How have the challenges faced by women changed over the years?