

## 2026 Heritage Month Kit Guide 1st – 3rd Grade

**This suggested guide can be modified as needed. It is provided to give context and assistance in using and facilitating the Heritage Month Kit materials.**

### Hello there!

May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. At Asian American Voices for Education, we see history as more than the past. It is a critical tool for Georgia’s diverse student population to understand interconnected histories and become change-makers in their local and global communities.

2026 is our fourth Heritage Month Kit, and our theme this year is **home and belonging**.

Designed for Georgia classrooms, you will find:

1. A book for your classroom
  2. Discussion prompts for some deep-thinking conversations
  3. Classroom coloring art
  4. A sample of our “Bite Sized Lesson Guide” in alignment with GA Standards of Excellence.
- Check out our website for more!

### Thoughts to Ponder:

What does **home** mean to you?  
Can you have more than one **home**?  
What does **belonging** feel like?



### Book:

**Each kit contains a copy of:**

- **Many Things at Once** by Veera Heeranandani and illustrated by Nadia Alam



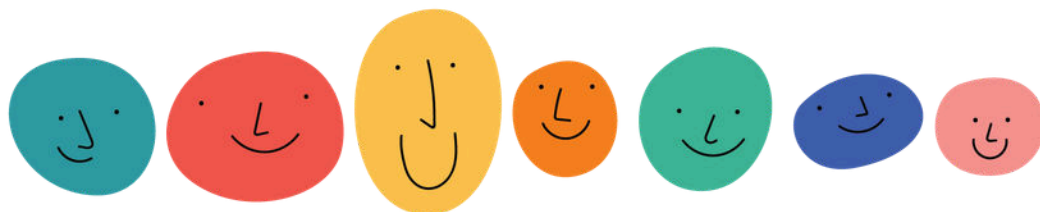
## Discussion Prompts:

### Before Reading:

1. Look at the cover—What do you see? Why do you think the girl has so many different things floating around her?
2. Look at the title—*Many Things At Once*. This story is about a girl named Amrita who is "this AND that." Her mother is from a Jewish family and her father is from an Indian family. She feels like she **belongs** to both! Have you ever felt like you were more than one thing at the same time?
3. This story is about how we feel at **home** in different cultures. Let's read to see how Amrita celebrates all the parts of who she is!

### After Reading:

1. Amrita's family celebrates many different traditions, like Diwali and Hanukkah. What are some of the ways her family makes their house feel like a **home**?
2. In the story, Amrita says she is "this AND that." Why do you think it is important to her to feel like she **belongs** to both her mom's culture and her dad's culture?
3. How did Amrita feel when people asked her "what" she was? What helped her feel proud of all her different parts by the end of the book?
4. Where does Amrita feel she **belongs** the most? Is it when she is with her whole family sharing a meal?
5. What are some "many things" about you? Do you have different languages, foods, or traditions that make you feel at **home**?
6. What can we do to make sure everyone in our class feels like they **belong**, no matter where their family comes from or what traditions they have?



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## Classroom Coloring:

- There are two sets of coloring activity in your craft bag.
- Each student receives 1-2 sheets of coloring page, coloring them with colors that remind them of **home** and **belonging**.
- Assemble the art together (handy dandy numbers on the back of each page to make this easy for you).
- Hang the coloring collage masterpiece on a wall or hallway for all to see!



Art by @tiffblot, class coloring activity inspired by Ms. Karla & Ms. Diane (GA teachers)

## Meet the Artist:

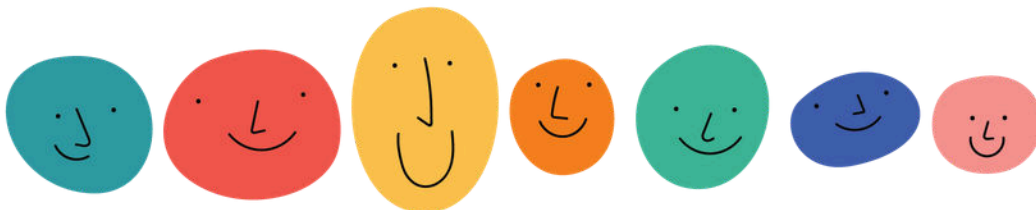
Tiff Chau (@tiffblot) is an Asian American illustrator born and raised in Georgia. She celebrates slices of life through her watercolor artwork that captures the warmth of culture and the nostalgia in the well worn corners of our hearts. In honor of her childhood spent working in her family restaurant, Tiff also collaborates regularly with local non-profits and small businesses. Her greatest joy is creating artwork for her community and sharing stories about the little things over a big bowl of soup!



## What does Home and Belonging mean to you as an AANHPI artist in Georgia?

“They say home is where the heart is, and my heart has always been found in a noisy, overly warm, too-tight kitchen space with a plate and glass that is always full. **Home** and **belonging** are defined in so many languages, but especially growing up in a multicultural household, my heritage has been defined by the love language of food that has endured oceans and generations so that I can enjoy it today!”

Follow Tiff on social media at @tiffblot



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## Thoughtful Tips:

- Be sure to talk about how vast Asian American communities are. They are people of **Asian descent from 48 countries and over 60% of the world's population**. Asian Americans come from many different backgrounds and can be first-generation immigrants or have roots in America since the 1700s.
- Most of us in the US have roots in other countries. Discuss what **your student population's roots may be**.
- Celebrate **more than food, fun, and festivals**. Give space for students to **explore deep thinking skills** by relating the books to personal experiences.

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the kit and tag us [@aaved\\_org](https://www.instagram.com/aaved_org)  
or [@aaved.org](https://www.facebook.com/aaved.org) 

The post with the most likes by  
**May 20** will win books for your  
classroom library!

