

AGES 9-14
UPPER PRIMARY/
MIDDLE GRADE

The Rise of the Energy Warriors

Marni Khan and The Ancient Silk Route



Written by
Saniya Chughtai

Resource Pack



About The Author

Saniya Chughtai is an award-winning children's author and storyteller whose books bring together imagination, culture and social and emotional learning.

Author of more than a dozen children's books, Saniya creates culturally rich stories that explore courage, identity, friendship and belonging.

Marni Khan and the Ancient Silk Route, the first book in The Rise of the Energy Warriors series, blends magical realism and fantasy with Pakistan's landscapes, traditions and folklore.



About The Wadi Tribe

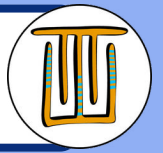
The Wadi Tribe (TWT) creates culturally rich children's stories and educational resources through its Education through Entertainment approach.

Founded by Saniya Chughtai, it uses storytelling to encourage children to explore values, cultures and the world around them.





Curriculum Links



Marni Khan and the Ancient Silk Route supports learning across English, Social Studies, Cultural Studies and Social & Emotional Learning, using adventure, folklore and the landscapes of Pakistan to explore identity, courage, belonging and responsibility.

ENGLISH & LITERACY

- Character development and motivation
- Setting, atmosphere and descriptive language
- Myth, folklore and magical realism
- Prediction, inference and evidence from the text
- Creative and reflective writing

SOCIAL & CULTURAL STUDIES

- Pakistan and the ancient Silk Route
- Cultural heritage, traditions and folklore
- Geography, landscape and journeys
- Identity, belonging and cultural understanding
- Exploring how stories preserve cultural heritage

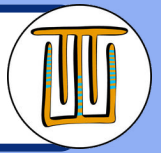
CLASSROOM LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The story can support classroom activities including:

- Mapping Marni's journey through Pakistan and the ancient Silk Route
- Exploring how landscape influences setting and atmosphere
- Comparing folklore, myths and traditional stories across cultures
- Researching how cultural traditions are preserved and passed on
- Using objects, places and family stories as inspiration for creative writing



Curriculum Alignment



KHDA Wellbeing Matters

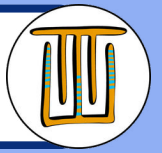
- Psychological – identity, emotions and resilience
(Marni navigating grief, fear and uncertainty)
- Cognitive – critical thinking and problem-solving
(Interpreting clues and making decisions throughout her journey)
- Social – relationships, trust and belonging
(Marni learning to rely on others and build new friendships)
- Physical – wellbeing, challenge and perseverance
(Responding to the physical demands of her journey)

UAE Moral, Social and Cultural (MSC) Studies

- Character and Morality – courage and responsibility
(Making difficult choices and considering their consequences)
- The Individual and the Community – identity and belonging
(Exploring family, heritage and connection to community)
- Civic Studies – responsibility and service to others
(Understanding how individual choices can affect others)
- Cultural Studies – heritage and cultural understanding
(Exploring Pakistan's traditions, landscapes, folklore and communities)

UK Curriculum

- Reading comprehension – inference and evidence
(Exploring character motivation, choices and changing relationships)
- English – setting, language and narrative
(Examining how landscape, folklore and atmosphere shape the story)
- Relationships Education – friendships and support
(Exploring trust, cooperation and asking for help)
- Personal development – choices and responsibility
(Considering how values influence decisions)



TWT SEL Guiding Principles

The Wadi Tribe uses Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) to help children connect the themes in each story with their own lives. Our guiding principles are aligned with the CASEL 5 framework.

Self-Awareness

Marni begins to understand how her emotions, memories and sense of identity influence the way she responds to the challenges she faces.

Self-Management

As her journey becomes more difficult, Marni learns to manage fear and uncertainty, persevere through setbacks and keep moving forward.

Social Awareness

Through the people, communities and traditions she encounters, Marni develops a deeper appreciation of different perspectives, experiences and cultural heritage.

Relationship Skills

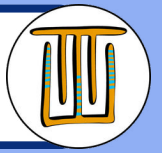
Marni learns the importance of trust, friendship, asking for help and accepting support rather than facing every challenge alone.

Responsible Decision-Making

Faced with increasingly difficult choices, Marni must consider consequences, weigh what she knows and decide how her actions may affect both herself and others.



About This Adventure

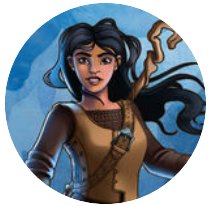


About This Adventure

On a treacherous journey along the ancient Silk Route, Marni must unlock the secrets of her mother's mysterious silk cloth and protect it from the evil spirits who seek its power.

While going through her late mother's belongings, 12-year-old Marni Khan discovers a mysterious silk cloth covered in strange symbols. A letter from her mother sends her on a journey through Pakistan in search of the Irha Pari, where she encounters ancient folklore, supernatural dangers and a mysterious power she is only beginning to understand.

Meet the Characters



Marni Khan

12-year-old protagonist. Curious, fearless, resourceful and determined to uncover the truth behind her mother's mysterious legacy.



Zorawar

Marni's powerful snow leopard energy animal, connected to her through a mysterious bond.

Along the Journey

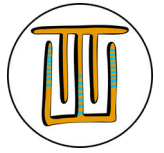
- Masqi – Marni's talkative and adventurous travelling companion.
- Nana Qamar – Marni's wise grandfather, storyteller and teacher.
- Irha Pari – the mysterious pari Marni has been instructed to find.

Before You Read

- What can objects passed down through a family tell us about the people who owned them?
- What do you already know about the ancient Silk Route?
- If you discovered that something you inherited carried a great responsibility, what would you do?



Lesson One: The Weight of a Legacy



Learning Objectives

- Explore how family history can shape identity.
- Examine Marni's feelings about her mother's legacy.
- Consider how responsibility can influence choices.



Main Activity: The Inherited Object

Book reference: pp. 58–63

Revisit Marni's discovery of the silk cloth and her mother's letter.

In pairs, create an "Object of Meaning" profile for the silk cloth:

- What is it? What does Marni know about it?
- What does it represent? Think about family, loss and identity.
- What does it change? How does it influence Marni's choices?

Then imagine an object passed from one generation to another. Write a short paragraph explaining the memory, story, tradition or responsibility it carries.



Reflection Questions

- Why is the silk cloth more than an ordinary possession to Marni?
- How do her feelings about her mother influence her choices?
- Can an inheritance be both a gift and a responsibility? Why?



Extension Task

Write a short letter to accompany your inherited object. Explain why it matters and what you would want the next generation to remember.



Lesson Two: Learning to Trust



Learning Objectives

- Explore how trust develops between people.
- Examine how Marni's relationship with Masqi changes.
- Consider why accepting help can be a strength.



Main Activity: Trust Takes Time

Book reference: pp. 64–65

Revisit the scene where Marni decides to continue towards Nanga Parbat despite the danger. Masqi is frightened, but chooses to go with her rather than let her face it alone.

In pairs, create a simple **Trust Tracker**:

- What does Marni do or say?
- What does Masqi do or say?
- What does this reveal about their relationship?

Then identify three things that help trust grow between people, using evidence from the scene or another example.



Reflection Questions

- Why does Masqi choose to go with Marni even though he is afraid?
- Why is Marni still reluctant to call him her friend?
- Does trusting someone mean you have to agree with them?



Extension Task

Write a short paragraph from Masqi's point of view explaining why he decides not to leave Marni to climb the mountain alone.



Lesson Three: Culture, Heritage & Belonging



Learning Objectives

- Explore how traditions help preserve cultural heritage.
- Examine how Marni responds to the communities she encounters.
- Consider how culture can contribute to identity and belonging.



Main Activity: Culture Tells a Story

Book reference: pp. 250–251

Revisit the village scene where Marni observes traditional weaving, music and the Khattak dance. Consider how these traditions reflect KPK's cultural heritage.

In small groups, choose weaving, music or the Khattak dance and create a Culture & Heritage Card:

- What is the tradition?
- How is it shared or preserved?
- What does it tell us about the community?

Discuss why preserving traditions matters to future generations.



Reflection Questions

- Why does Marni feel proud while watching the Khattak dance?
- How can traditions create a sense of belonging?
- What can we learn about a community through its arts and traditions?



Extension Task

Choose a cultural tradition you know about and create a short "Heritage Snapshot" explaining what it is, how it is passed on and why people may value it.

Continue the Adventure

Thank you for exploring Marni Khan and the Ancient Silk Route with your class. We hope Marni's journey encourages young readers to think about identity, heritage, friendship and responsibility, while discovering the landscapes, traditions and folklore of Pakistan.



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