

One Story: Razi Cover Letter

Dear Teachers

Thank you for your interest in our **One Story** school activities!

Read, Reap, Write Package

We have specially chosen three extracts from the book, *One Story: Razi*, for students and teachers to read and discuss in class. We hope the curated questions would stimulate their thinking processes and initiate meaningful discussions. We have prepared these packages in English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil to encourage students to read and communicate in English and their Mother Tongue languages.

As a token of appreciation, we will gift you copies of the book for each completed class report submission, while stocks last. These copies are to be distributed to your students. Please click on <https://go.gov.sg/os21-sr> to submit a soft copy of the report which can be found on the website together with the activity packages. Please include 1-2 photos of the activity being carried out. If there are multiple reports from your school, please compile all the soft copies of the reports and submit through the link above. Your submission must not exceed 10mb. Reports are to be submitted **by 15 July 2022**.

Please refer to Appendix A for more details on the National Library Board's One Story project and the book, *One Story: Razi*.

For further queries, please contact Nur Fitri or Agnes Ang at nur_fitri_muhammad_syafran@nlb.gov.sg and agnes_ang@nlb.gov.sg respectively.

Thank you.

Best Regards,
One Story Project Team

One Story: Razi Activity Package

Appendix A

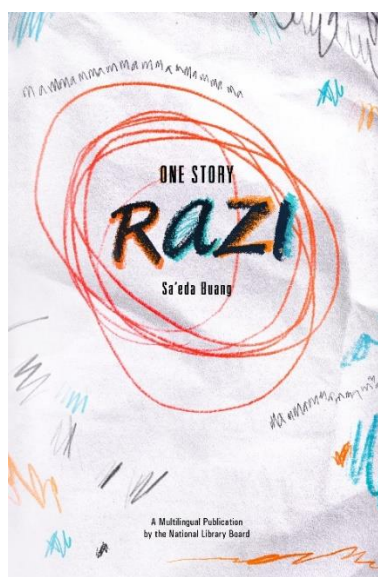
Synopsis of *Razi*

Every day is a painful struggle for Nani, the mother of Razi, a boy with special needs. As Nani finds herself increasingly frustrated by society’s lack of understanding and empathy for Razi’s condition, she is by turns swayed and pressured by her sister’s incessant cajoling to seek help from a traditional Malay healer. Nani keeps the treatment a secret from her husband – out of fear and also perhaps guilt. Razi is slowly tamed into obedience. The healer sees it as progress, but is submission into silent acquiescence a cure at all?

Razi will make you ponder over the great lengths people would go to and the sacrifices they make for their loved ones. Readers will be tempted to weigh in on the dilemmas that Nani has to grapple with and tread along the emotional rollercoaster of her struggle and guilt. Will we condemn her choices? Or empathise with her challenges?

The One Story Project

One Story is a project by the National Library Board to make Singapore short stories – originally written in Tamil, Malay, Chinese, or English – available in the other languages. The project aims to bring these stories to more readers beyond the language communities that they were originally written for. *Razi* is a short story by Dr Sa’eda Buang that was originally written in Malay. The book features the story in all four languages and is available for borrowing on <https://www.go.gov.sg/libby-razi>.



Title:	One Story: Razi
Author:	Sa’eda Buang
Call no.:	Adult SING English SAE (hardcopy) https://www.go.gov.sg/libby-razi (eBook)
Publisher:	National Library Board, 2021

One Story: Razi Activity Package

Report on One Story: Razi Activity Package

Excerpt/s chosen for discussion (max. 3)	:	
Language	:	
Date of activity	:	
Class level	:	
Name of teacher	:	
Name of school	:	
School address	:	
No. of students/No. of copies required (max 40 copies)	:	

Feedback from Teacher/s		
What went well during the activity?	:	
What could be improved on?	:	

Feedback from the Participants		
Verbal Feedback	:	
Written Feedback	:	

One Story: Razi Activity Package

Note to facilitator:

- Please fill up this form as a soft copy and submit through the link:
<https://go.gov.sg/os21-sr>
- Please include 1-2 photograph(s) of the activity per report.
- You can submit multiple reports at one time. Please include all the files in a folder and convert the folder to a zipped file for submission. Your submission must not exceed 10mb. Reports are to be submitted **by 15 July 2022**.

Disclaimer: The photograph(s) will not be shared publicly – they are solely for internal reporting purposes within NLB.

Thank you.

One Story: Razi Activity Package

Read, Reap, Write Package
Facilitator's Guide

Name of Package	:	One Story: Razi
Objective(s)	:	To initiate meaningful discussions and develop empathy in students
Target Audience	:	Upper secondary
Recommended Duration	:	1 hour per excerpt
Room Setup	:	Students in groups of 3-4 at different tables
Book Title	:	One Story: Razi
Book Author	:	Sa'eda Buang
Call Number	:	Adult SING English SAE (hardcopy) https://www.go.gov.sg/libby-razi (eBook)

Notes to Facilitator:

- Remember to take 1-2 photos during the activity.
- Please submit a report of the session through the Form SG link indicated on the cover letter. If there are multiple reports, facilitator is to compile all and submit as 1 submission.
- Activity sheets can be printed and distributed to students.

One Story: Razi Activity Package

Read, Reap, Write Activity Sheet
(taken from “One Story: Razi” by Sa’eda Buang)

Excerpt 1

I could only watch him. He was spinning faster and faster. As fast as a spinning top. On his skinny legs, he continued spinning. Like a ballet dancer in the film *The Swan Princess*. He stretched out his arms. Then he brought them together, clasped them tightly around himself with his eyes closed and face pointed to the sky. Nothing else existed at that point, just the spinning and the unrelenting* sound of his spinning that was pounding in my ears. All I could do was watch the scene from the kitchen.

When Razi gets tired from this, he will start arranging whatever he can lay his hands on. This was a ritual for him, and this time, it was a stack of compact discs. He carefully placed one disc on top of the other, building the stack so high that it seemed to defy gravity and began leaning precariously* like the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The whole time his mouth was moving and producing sounds that were no longer unfamiliar to me. Remarkably, whatever he stacked never toppled.

Razi is good at arranging things. It is usually Lemman, my youngest, or I who might accidentally cause the stack to fall over. When this happened, Razi would throw a tantrum, hurling himself around or hitting his hands on the wall until he injures himself. Because of this, Lemman and I would never go near anything Razi arranged, even though I might need one of the items he was using. Once I surreptitiously* tried to retrieve a book from the row of books that he had arranged horizontally like a train. But Razi’s eyes are razor-sharp and nothing escapes his attention. He threw a tantrum the whole night, hitting his head repeatedly against the metal door grille.

Let’s Discuss

1. How would you feel if something that you have been working on is destroyed or ruined? How do you usually express this feeling?
2. Have you seen someone in frustration or anger? How did that make you feel? Did it make you want to help the person or cause you to walk away?
3. Razi is good at arranging things. Share something that you are good at.

One Story: Razi Activity Package

Know Your Vocab

(definitions were taken from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary)

1. Unrelenting - (of an unpleasant situation) not stopping or becoming less severe
2. Precariously - in a way that means something is likely to fall or that might cause somebody to fall
3. Surreptitiously – in a quick or secret way so that other people do not notice

Let's Write: Form your own sentence using the words you just learnt.

1. Unrelenting:
2. Precariously:
3. Surreptitiously:

One Story: Razi Activity Package

Read, Reap, Write Activity Sheet
(taken from “One Story: Razi” by Sa’eda Buang)

Excerpt 2

I tried to hail a taxi under the scorching* sun. I held Razi’s hand tightly. Seeing how I was trying to stop a taxi, Razi began waving his arms frantically*, waving at all the passing cars, buses, lorries and motorcycles. My neighbours who live in the same block waved at both of us.

“Tesi, tesu, tesu...” Razi kept repeating until he entered the taxi.

The taxi driver turned around a few times and looked at us. He pulled a long face*.

“What does he want? Can you ask him to sit on the left?”

“What’s the problem?” We have been treated with this same harsh stare a thousand times before. I was sick and tired of it. Drivers who are more polite would give us a quick backward glance and pretend that we did not exist. But this taxi driver did not seem to have even the slightest bit of sympathy.

“He is jumping and wriggling about. I can’t drive *mah!*”

My soul was protesting. I felt like getting out of the taxi and walking but I knew it was not possible. In the end, I did as the driver wanted. Anything, as long as we reached our destination.

“Can you hold on to him?”

I raised my voice in anger. “What else do you want? He’s not causing any problems.”

“Sorry! Don’t be angry. I once picked up a kid just like him. He was jumping about in my taxi and making a lot of noise. Before I knew it, he hit me on the head and nearly got me into an accident.”

*next page for discussion questions and activities

One Story: Razi Activity Package

Let's Discuss

1. The taxi driver was concerned that Razi was moving about too much while he was driving. Do you think his concerns were valid?
2. How do you think the taxi driver could have expressed his concerns without offending Razi's mother?
3. Have you been in a situation where your actions were misunderstood? How did you feel? Did you attempt to give an explanation or gain understanding from others?

Know Your Vocab

(definitions were taken from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary)

1. Scorching - very hot
2. Frantically - quickly and with a lot of activity, but in a way that is not very well organized
3. Pulled a long face – (to have) an unhappy or disappointed expression

Let's Write: Form your own sentence using the words/phrases you just learnt.

1. Scorching:
2. Frantically:
3. Pulled a long face:

One Story: Razi Activity Package

Read, Reap, Write Activity Sheet

(taken from “One Story: Razi” by Sa’eda Buang)

Excerpt 3

The phone rang. Oh God, don’t let it be Kak Miah. I hope it isn’t...

“Nani, this is Kak Ros. I need a favour. Please don’t be angry about what I am going to say. It’s about the birthday party this week.” It was only my neighbour.

“What do you need, Kak Ros? I will have the *samosas ready just as you instructed. I will fry them and bring them over tomorrow.”

She was silent.

“It’s hard for me to say this. I swear I don’t mean to hurt your feelings. But... if possible, would you mind not coming to the party this weekend? My friends will be bringing their children. I am worried that they might frighten Razi. I feel sorry when I see you running after Razi, trying to keep him still. And, what if Razi pulls his pants down again? Honestly, I am not trying to upset you, I swear. Or if you want to, bring Leman. Let Razi stay home with his father.....”

Let’s Discuss

1. How would you feel if you were Nani?
2. Do you think it is right for Kak Ros to request that Nani and Razi do not attend the birthday party?
3. How would you feel if you were asked not to come to a friend’s party although you had received an invitation earlier?

One Story: Razi Activity Package

Know Your Vocab

(definitions were taken from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary)

1. Samosa - a type of hot spicy South Asian food consisting of a triangle of thin pastry filled with meat or vegetables and fried until it is hard and dry

Have you eaten a samosa before? If you have, describe the taste. Name 3 other food similar to samosa.

(similar in terms of ingredients, texture, shape, the way it is cooked etc.)