

BECOMING MEERA



BY [CHILDBOOK.AI](https://childbook.ai)

Meera opened her eyes to the scent of Mum's spicy parathas. "Rise and shine, Meera!" Mum called. Meera smiled, stretching out of bed. Dad peeked in, "Big day at school?" he teased. Meera giggled. She felt nervous, but her parents' love warmed her heart.



Meera frowned at her reflection. “Why don’t I look like the others?” she whispered. Mum brushed Meera’s hair gently. “You’re beautiful, beta,” Mum said kindly. Meera smiled a little. She started to feel proud of her black hair.



At school, Meera's friends giggled about their summer plans. "Did you visit India this year?" one asked. "Yes!" Meera replied, sharing stories of mangoes and cousins. Everyone listened, eyes wide with curiosity. Meera's cheeks flushed happily. She loved making her culture shine.



After school, Mum took Meera to her first Bharatanatyam class. "Give it a try!" Mum encouraged. The teacher smiled and guided Meera's steps. "You move gracefully," the teacher said. Meera grinned, proud of learning something new. The rhythmic music beat in her heart.



On Saturday, Dad and Meera cooked samosas together. “More potatoes, less peas,” Dad joked. Meera laughed and crimped the edges carefully. “You’ll be a great chef someday,” Dad winked. Mum handed Meera a taste. Everyone agreed—Meera’s samosas were the best!



One evening, Meera sat quietly, holding her diary. "Mum, do you think I'm good enough?" she asked softly. Mum hugged her tightly. "You're more than enough, Meera." Dad nodded, "We believe in you." Meera's worry felt a little lighter.



Meera's group chose 'Traditions Around the World' for their project. She brought her mom's bangles and colorful dupatta. Her friends admired the shiny jewelry. "This is so pretty, Meera!" they exclaimed. Meera beamed. She was proud to share her heritage.



Diwali was coming, and Meera helped string up lights. Dad lit sparklers while Mum made sweet ladoos. "Happy Diwali!" they cheered together. Meera danced in her new kurta, twirling. The house glowed with joy. She loved family traditions.



One day, Meera came home upset after hearing mean words at school. "They laughed at my name," she whispered. Mum and Dad hugged her. "Be proud of who you are," Dad said. Meera wiped her tears. She felt braver with her parents' support.



The next week, a new girl joined Meera's class. "Hi, I'm Priya," she said, shyly. Meera smiled, "Want to sit with me?" Priya nodded gratefully. Together, they bonded over shared stories. Meera felt happy to help someone new.



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Welcome
New
Students!

Meera was chosen to speak about her culture at assembly. She felt scared but remembered Mum's encouraging words. "You can do this!" Dad whispered from the audience. Meera spoke confidently about Diwali and traditions. Everyone clapped. Meera's heart soared with pride.



Diwali
Festival
of At Lights.

On her birthday, Meera blew out the candles, surrounded by Mum and Dad. "I'm proud of who I am," she declared. Mum kissed her cheek. Dad high-fived her. Meera felt ready for new adventures. She was truly becoming herself.



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