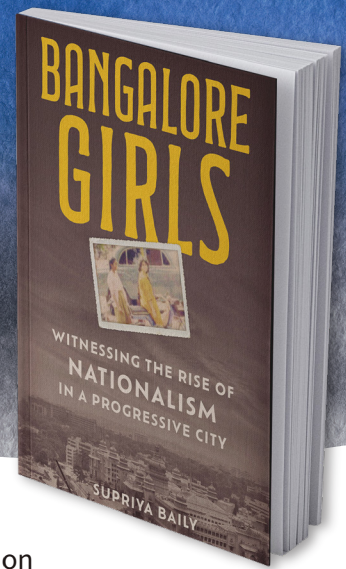


Suggestions For How To Use Bangalore Girls In Your Classroom



Contextualize Historical Background

Using the introduction of the book, provide students with an overview of India's historical context, especially of the Ayodhya incidence and the intersection between nationalism and gender roles in the 1980s.

Activity: Assign background readings or documentaries on Bangalore's history. Have students discuss how nationalism influenced the position of women in society at different points in history.

Focus On Key Themes

Break the book into key thematic sections, such as the relationship between feminism and nationalism; the role of women in Bangalore in the 1980s; the role of women in modern times; the rise of Hindu extremism, etc. Focusing on these themes helps students understand the complex intersections between national identity and gender politics.

Activity: Organize a series of theme-based discussions or presentations. Assign each group of students a chapter or section and have them present on the relevant topic.

Use Comparative Analysis

Encourage students to compare the experiences of the "Bangalore Girls" to women in other parts of the world. Share how women's experiences may be shaped by a country's history, culture, and politics.

Activity: Assign students to research feminist movements and nationalism in other countries (e.g. South Africa, Latin America). Have a class discussion comparing these movements with the feminist struggles in India as described in the book.

Engage With Primary Sources

Use the book as a gateway to discuss primary sources such as speeches, writings, and letters from women in India. This will help students connect with the material from the women in the book.

Activity: Ask students to research excerpts from primary sources referenced in the book. Ask them to analyze how these documents reflect the tension between the key themes in the book.

Discuss Contemporary Implications

Encourage students to connect the book's exploration on a changing India to contemporary issues.

Activity: Host a debate or panel discussion on current issues (e.g. rise of nationalism or populism in the U.S.), using the book as a framework for understanding the ongoing relationship between religion, education, and today's political landscape.

Assign Reflective Writing

Encourage reflective essays where students explore their thoughts on the Bangalore Girls' experiences in a changing country and society. For example, how have the narratives in the book changed or challenged their understanding of feminism in a non-Western context?

Activity: Assign a short reflective writing piece where students analyze one chapter or theme from the book, integrating both historical insights and personal reactions.