



Sarang Saves the School Teaching Guide

About the Author and Illustrator

Korena Di Roma Howley is a writer, editor, and children's author who grew up in Asia and the U.S. *Sarang Saves the School* is her debut picture book.

Joowon Oh is a South Korean-born author-illustrator whose previous books include *Our Favorite Day* and *Lucky Dogs*.



Discussion Questions

- “Culture” is how people live, including their families, food, clothes, art, and traditions. What parts of Korean culture in the story feel the same as your culture? What parts feel different?
- What do you admire most about Sarang? How about Halmeoni? Explain your answers.
- Have you ever done something that made a positive difference for others? How did it make you feel?
- The narrator says Sarang “devoured stories.” At the end, Halmeoni is reading to Sarang, and Sarang is happy to have “more stories to share.” Why do you think stories are important? Why do people like to share them with each other?
- What is your favorite moment in the book? What do you notice about the words in that part? What do you notice about the illustrations?
- In an author’s note, Korena Di Roma Howley shares that this story is inspired by true events in South Korea. What connections can you make between the book and the real events she describes?



“Design a School” Art Project

Materials Needed

- Poster board or extra large paper
- Pencils
- Markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils
- Ruler (optional)

Steps:

1. Invite students to imagine and design a school that teaches more than just children.
 - a. Who else could be students?
 - b. What subjects or skills might be taught?
 - c. What does the school look like?
 - d. What kinds of classrooms, spaces, and materials are needed?
 - e. Who are the teachers? Could kids be teachers too?
2. Have students sketch their designs first and then add color.
3. Encourage creativity and imagination—no idea is too big!
4. If time allows, have students share their designs with the class and explain their choices.



“Problem Solver” Graphic Organizer

Materials Needed

- Graphic organizer (provided)
- Pencil

Steps:

1. Remind students that Sarang became a problem solver for her school and community.
2. Brainstorm together: ask students to share problems they see in their school or community (for example, litter in the park). Write their ideas on the board.
3. Have each student choose one problem they’d like to try to solve.
4. Provide the attached “Problem Solver” Graphic Organizer and guide them in filling it out.
5. If time allows, invite students to share their solutions in small groups or with the whole class.

Guide Creator

Ryan Bani Tahmaseb is an author, K-12 academic coach, and curriculum developer. His debut picture book, *Rostam’s Picture-Day Pusteen*, was published by Charlesbridge in summer 2024. His debut middle grade book, *Persian Mythology: Epic Stories of Gods, Heroes, and Monsters*, will be published by Running Press Kids in fall 2025, and his next picture book, *I Want to Eat (With) You*, will be published by Eerdmans Books for Young Readers in Spring 2027. He lives in Southern Maine with his wife and two young children.

Graphic Organizer

Name: _____ Date: _____

Problem

What could I do to solve the problem?

Who could help me?

A first step I could take: