



Leah's
Mustache
Party

EDUCATOR'S
RESOURCE



by Nadia Mike
illustrated by Charlene Chua

Leah's Mustache Party

About the Book

Four-year-old Leah loved being a pirate for Halloween—but once Halloween has come and gone, Leah misses so many things about her costume. She misses her sword. She misses saying “Arrrr!” Most of all, she misses her silly mustache. But Leah knows that it doesn’t have to be Halloween to play dress-up. She can wear a mustache whenever she wants! She can wear one while she’s watching a movie, or riding her bike, or playing her favourite game. So when Leah’s birthday finally arrives, she knows exactly what she wants to do: have a party where everyone must wear a mustache! At Leah’s mustache party, everyone gets in on the dress-up fun, even Grandma!

About the Author

Nadia Mike is an Inuit educator, who recently graduated with a bachelor of education degree from the University of Regina. Although Nadia has lived in many communities across the North, she considers Iqaluit, Nunavut, her home. Nadia has two daughters, Leah and Jaime, who constantly teach her to be less serious and enjoy every day. These two girls have also reminded Nadia of the importance of children’s literature, and having stories with settings, characters, and themes that show children that their lives and cultures are important enough to be in books. Nadia loves to travel, cook, sew, and drink strong coffee. In 2014, Nadia published her first book, an Inuktitut-language first-words board book. *Leah’s Mustache Party* is her first picture book.

About the Illustrator

Charlene Chua worked as a web designer, senior graphic designer, web producer, and interactive project manager before she decided to pursue illustration as a career. Her work has appeared in *American Illustration*, *Spectrum*, and SILA’s *Illustration West*, as well as several art books. She illustrated the children’s picture books *Julie Black Belt: The Kung Fu Chronicles* and *Julie Black Belt: The Belt of Fire*. She lives in Toronto.

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

Before reading the book out loud, hold it up and show the cover to the class. What do students think the story might be about? Point out the author and illustrator names and ask if anyone knows why those names are on the cover. Do they know what an author does? Do they know what an illustrator does?

During and Post-Reading Discussion Questions

The following questions and discussion points can be used during and after reading *Leah's Mustache Party*. Provide students with the chance to voice their own opinions, share their experiences, ask questions, or point out anything else they may notice about the book.

- Did you like this story? What words would you use to describe the type of story it is? What would you say to a friend if you wanted them to read it? What will you tell your parents about the story?
- Can you imagine where the author got the idea for this story? Do you think the illustrator had fun drawing the pictures? Did the pictures do a good job of helping tell the story?
- Do you know someone who has a real mustache? How do they look? Would you recognize them without a mustache?
- Have you ever seen a kid with a mustache? Was it on Halloween or just a regular day?
- If a kid came to school with a mustache, would you think it was funny? Would you want to have a mustache too? What are some other ways you could have fun with clothes or makeup?
- Have you ever worn a mustache as part of a Halloween costume? Were you a pirate or someone else with a mustache? Did you think you looked silly with a mustache?
- With her skull hat, do you think Leah looked scary before she had a mustache? How about after she had a mustache? Do you agree that pirates should have mustaches? What other things might be part of a pirate costume?
- Do you like to go trick-or-treating? Which kind of costume do you like best: funny, scary, or pretty? Do you know what your next Halloween costume is going to be? How did you dress up last year?
- Have you ever dressed exactly like your friend or someone else in your class for Halloween? Did you do that on purpose or by accident?



- After Halloween, “Leah decided that it did not need to be Halloween to have fun and dress up.” Do you agree with her? Do you ever dress up when it’s not Halloween? What do you wear?
- Did you think Leah’s idea to have a mustache party was a good one? Why do you think she had the idea? Would you have liked an invitation to the party? What kind of mustache would you have worn? What colour?
- Why does Leah’s mom let her wear mustaches everywhere? Would your parents let you do that? Why or why not? How would your teacher feel if you wore a mustache to school?
- In the picture of the mustache party, whose mustache did you like the best? Who looked the silliest with their mustache?



Extension Activities

Language Arts

Write another adventure about Leah and her mustache. (Examples: a holiday story, an animal story, or an outing with a relative who also has a mustache.)

Write a Halloween story—it doesn't have to have a mustache in it!

Invent your own silly party and write a story about it—what makes it silly, who would be invited, and what the menu would be. Make your own illustrations to decorate the story.

Art

Have a class mustache party! Have the class design mustache invitations, games, and decorations. Provide body crayons or skin-safe markers and help everyone make their own mustache. Party games could include:

- Pin-the-mustache on a large drawing of the teacher's face
- Mustache matching game (like Concentration)
- Decorating pirate colouring pages
- Painting small rocks with funny mustache faces and leaving them around the school

