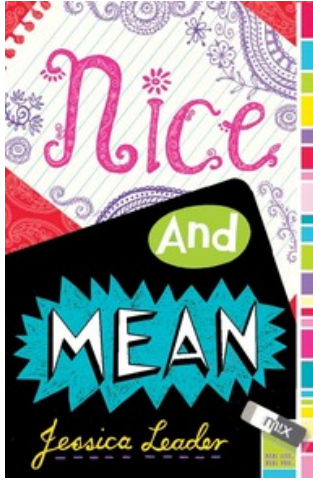


Librarian Booktalk Guide for
Nice and Mean
by Jessica Leader



Interest Level: Middle-grade (4th through 8th grade)

Genre: Realistic fiction

Related topics: Friendship, assertiveness, anger, popularity, second-generation Americans, Indian-Americans, video-making

One-line synopsis: *Nice and Mean* is about what happens when two girls, one truly nice, one truly mean, are forced to work together on the video they hope will change the way people see them.

Book-talk synopsis

Marina is mean. Sachi is nice. They both want to make the best video in their class. Marina's goal? Out her wanna-be BFF as a fashion victim to the entire school. Sachi's goal? Prove that she's not just another smiley Indian honors student and broaden her classmates' cultural horizons. When the two girls are assigned to work together, it's a disaster from the start. How can Sachi film something meaningful, and Marina, something fabulous, if they're yoked to each other?

You'll like this book if you like...

The Clique series by Lisi Harrison

The Friendship Ring series by Rachel Vail

The Girls by Amy Koss Goldman

The Not-So-Star-Spangled Life of Sunita Sen by Mitali Perkins

For discussion questions, see Teacher Discussion Guide.