

EXPLORE New beginnings

TB → p. 176 [doc 1]

DIFFÉRENCIATION

WAY 1

The birth of two nations

The narrator is a young girl who lives in Lahore (now Pakistan).

There is much disturbing talk. India is going to be broken. Can one break a country? And what happens if they break it where our house is? Or crack it further up on Warris Road? How will I ever get to Godmother's then?

I ask Cousin.

5 "Rubbish¹," he says, "no one's going to break India. It's not made of glass!"

I ask Ayah.

"They'll dig² a canal...," she ventures. "This side for Hindustan and this side for Pakistan. If they want two
10 countries, that's what they'll have to do—crack India with a long, long canal."

Gandhi, Jinnah, Nehru, Iqbal, Tara Singh, Mountbatten are names I hear.

And I become aware of religious differences.

15 It is sudden. One day everybody is themselves—and the next day they are Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian. People shrink³, dwindling into symbols.

Bapsi SIDHWA, *Cracking India*, 1988

1. nonsense 2. creuser 3. become smaller

1. Read the title and the source. **Guess** what the document might be about.

Tick and **justify** your choice(s). [several possible answers]

- This text might be: ☐ a magazine article ☐ an extract from a novel
- The text might deal with: ☐ a family story ☐ a country's separation

2. Read the document and **pick out** the transparent words. **Sum up** the general idea in two sentences maximum.

3. Focus on key words and **write** them **down** in the following chart.

The girl's questions	The answers she gets	Extra information
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4. **Pick out** the adjectives that best describe the girl's feelings. **Justify** your answer.

☐ worried ☐ calm ☐ confused ☐ amused ☐ scared ☐ indifferent

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5. **Recap** the main ideas of the document. You can use the following words.

question • break • country • separation • religion.

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WAY 2

1. **Look at** the title and the source. **Pay attention** to the narrator and **say** what the text might be about.

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2. **Read** the document carefully. **Pay attention** to the names and **places** mentioned and **identify** the main topic.

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3. **Read** the text and **take notes** on the division of India.

Aspect	Description from the text
How the division might happen?
Places mentioned (Locations)
Important people mentioned (Names)
Religious groups involved

4. **Focus on** the sentence: "People shrink, dwindling into symbols." **Explain** what the narrator means by this and how it relates to the changes happening around her.

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5. **Sum up** what you understood focusing on the idea that the Partition creates fear and confusion.

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