

Arjan and Tyler

It was a mad rush getting ready for school. Just before he dashed out to catch the school bus, Arjan grabbed his aquarium pencil and eraser set.

Arjan liked Miss Fernandez. She was a great storyteller. She brought books from all over the world to share with the class. She had invited his mom to class to talk about the Sikh culture.

Arjan was impressed by how well mom had explained things. He was proud to learn how Sikh principles of equality, liberty, and freedom of worship for all, were similar to the beliefs on which America had been founded.

Arjan had spoken, too, about how his long uncut hair was part of his Sikh identity. His mom had demonstrated how she tied his hair into a top knot and covered it with a scarf called the *patka*.

“Good morning, everybody!” Miss Fernandez greeted the third graders in her sing-song voice.

“Good morning, Miss Fernandez!” responded the class.

After a quick revision of last week’s history lesson, she asked, “Has anyone remembered to bring something special to share with the class today?”

Arjan raised his hand and said, “I have something.”

