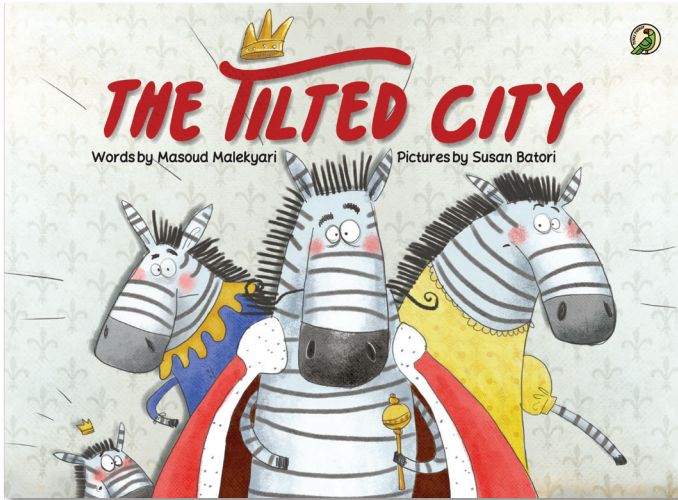


THE TILTED CITY

Teaching Notes



About the book:

The Tilted City is an engaging book about being different and coping with differences for young readers.

Zebright, the Zebra has always dreamed of going to Zebrutopia, the dreamland of zebras. But, when he finally reaches there, he finds that everything is tilted. Zebright is confused. What is he going to do?

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A Delightful Story about Being Different!



Masoud Malekyari

Masoud Malekyari followed his heart for story writing and studied cinema screenwriting and dramatic literature at university. Upon graduation, he spent a few years working for the press, but intrigued by narratives for children, he started to write and translate stories for them. To further pursue his lifelong passion for books and stories, he now runs his own children's bookstore, Paper Boat.



Susan Batori

Susan Batori is a Hungarian illustrator, graphic designer, and a character design addict. She studied graphic design at the Hungarian Academy of Fine Arts, Budapest. She worked as an art director at DDB Advertising Agency. Then she noticed that drawing hilarious characters was much more fun. She likes to laugh with her friends and her cat. Humour is the one thing in her studio that she can not live without.

Before you read:

1. Reading the title, what do you think the story is going to be about?

Pointers for discussion:

- You can discuss the literal meaning of the word “tilted.” Could there be an actual city that is tilted or that is built slanted? What might be its implications? What would the life of people be like in such a city?
- You can also discuss the metaphorical meaning. Is the social, political and economic fabric of the city skewed?
- You can also discuss what kind of characters might inhabit this city.
- You can ask the children whether they know of any other such stories, books, movies? You can ask whether the city, or the characters, represent something more?

2. What do you think about the book cover?

Pointers for discussion:

- You can talk about the design of the book cover and what do children think of it. What might the drawing of characters in a particular way suggest?
- You can also discuss the font and what it might suggest about the content of the story.

3. What do you think the characters are going to be like, how would you like them to be?

Pointers for discussion:

- You can ask the children about how the characters are pictured on the cover.
- You can discuss whether the children find them relatable. What else could they have seen or read where they found such characters?

Discussion Questions:

- What do the people of Zebrutopia say about Zebright when they see him? Why do you think it is so?
 - Might it be because he is so different from them and none of them have ever seen anyone “tilted” like that?
- What does Zebright think of Zebrutopia and its people?
 - He has also probably never seen such “tilted” people and is wondering where he has come and what could have caused the place to be tilted.
- Why do you think the people of Zebrutopia are afraid of their king?
 - is it because his family has ruled them for a long time? Is it because the king is unkind to them and exploits them? Does he not let them live as they want?

- Why do you think the kings in Zebrutopia are numbered in fractions? Like seven and a half.
 - Can it be that they are not proper kings and lack some qualities that should be present in a good ruler?
- Why do you think everything in Zebrutopia has become tilted?
 - Is it because the society is out of order? Do things not work properly in Zebrutopia? What forms a good society? And what happens if the social order collapses?
- What is the importance of asking questions to bring about change?
 - How important is it to not accept everything that people want you to believe and think for yourself and question things?
- In what ways can you ask questions for effective change?
 - You can discuss how one can ask questions so that other people can rethink their opinions and can perhaps change their beliefs?
- How are our identities formed? How do people's perspectives influence our identity?
 - You can ask the children about the many identities they have; they are sons and daughters, grandchildren, friends, students, so how do they think of themselves in relation to the various roles they have?

Activities:

- Activity 1- **Voicing what you think**: Divide the class into groups of 5 and ask them questions related to the book, for example some of the discussion questions. Ask the children what each of them think and enable them to discuss and ask and answer questions from the other children to understand what each of them thinks.
- Activity 2- **Dealing with disagreements**: Again, divide the children into groups and ask them about whether they think it was Zebrutopia that was tilted, or was it Zebright who was tilted? Let the children say what they think and see how they can better engage and deal with various opinions.
- Activity 3- **What do you Wonder about?** Again in small groups, let the children discuss that like Zebright finds Zebruland tilted, what do they find unique around them, about which they think 'why is this so'? How else would they like it to be?

Key Takeaways - Opinions should be backed by evidence. One must look at things from various perspectives and ask questions to better understand things. One must also keep wondering and trying to learn more about things.