Read Across America this month:
Fables, folktales, and other traditional stories are a part of every culture. Sharing stories about where we came from shows all we have in common with other people around us. Nasruddin tales are from many ages and many cultures. Invite students, families, or special guests to share traditional tales from other cultures that are important to them. Send a family survey home asking parents about their talents, languages, experiences, and expertise and ask others for help in learning about cultures that are not your own. Most are happy to help if they feel respected. Plan sharing *Riding a Donkey Backwards* and other traditional tales by delivering the stories in a variety of ways:

- Reader’s Theater featuring students, staff, and family members
- Storytelling performance by a local storyteller or a community member familiar with the stories
- A story a day read aloud as part of morning announcements or classroom podcast

*Riding a Donkey Backwards: Wise and Foolish Tales of Mulla Nasruddin*
retold by Sean Taylor and the Khayaal Theatre; illustrated by Shirin Adl

*If the stories of this iconic Muslim character don’t make you laugh, they will certainly make you think!*

Plan ahead for more Read Across America reading fun:
Stories are powerful, memorable, and help us understand who we are. Stories began with the oral tradition and are still passed on by being heard and retold. Celebrate story and grow a storytelling community by hosting a Read Across America Storypalooza storytelling event! You can focus on encouraging students, families, and staff to retell traditional tales, like *Riding a Donkey Backwards* or *Mangoes, Mischief, and Tales of Friendship* by Chitra Soundar. You can also include other themes, like family stories or stories from the classroom. Encourage participants to share short stories that they can learn and remember well. Offer storytelling resources or a workshop as a prelude to your Storypalooza.

Find more titles and resources to help students find common ground at readacrossamerica.org