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# Meena and the Microbiome

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*illustrated by Teresa Martinez*

A child's curiosity helps her understand why tiny organisms called microbes make such a big difference in her life.

Use *Meena and the Microbiome* in your classroom to learn more about the small things in our world that make a difference.

## mit Kids Press • TIPS FOR TEACHERS

### ***Meena and the Microbiome***

- In the book, Meena's mom explains, "Some microbes can make you sick, which is why it is important to wash your hands." Have students make posters about the importance of washing hands to hang in the bathrooms at school, near lunch tables, or at home.
- Create a class compost with lunch leftovers and organic materials you may find, and observe with your students what happens over time as the materials break down.
- Most classrooms don't have a powerful microscope like the one Meena's mother has at work, but magnification can reveal many things that aren't microbes. Use microscopes or magnifying glasses to give your students a better view of small details. Using different materials, have students draw what they can see. Post the pictures on a bulletin board with the name of what they observed covered and have students guess the magnified material.
- Microbes "carry lessons that could . . . make new types of food we've never tasted before." Ask students to imagine creating a new kind of food. Use flavor profiles that they already know as a way to begin brainstorming.

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