

Your Aha! Moments Are Coming!

Chances are you've been to a **museum**. You've told funny stories to **amuse** your friends. You've sung songs, danced, and listened to **mus(e)-ic**! How are all these connected? By muses! And who or what are muses?

Originally, muses weren't real people. They were like guides with special powers. They helped creative people put their imaginations to work—they got them inspired and fired up! Muses put the “ah” in those *aha!* moments.

In ancient times, people believed there were three Muses, or goddesses, each with her own creative area to oversee. Thalia kept watch

over comedy. Terpsichore looked after dance. Calliope inspired very long story poems.

When an artist cried, “O, Muse!” she was really saying, “I need help!” And faster than you could say “aha!” that help arrived like a giant burst of inspiration. Aha! moments will be coming for you, too, all along this *aMUSE* journey.

The Muses and You

Today, a muse can be anyone or anything that inspires you.

Along this journey you'll meet many inspiring women and girls. One of them is Mitali Perkins. She writes children's books and spends a lot of time in schools and libraries talking about growing up in two different cultures and the life-changing power of storytelling. Mitali's own story and the strong female characters in her books inspire girls everywhere! (For more on Mitali, see page 51.)

You're probably good at telling stories, too. After all, your life is filled with excitement, drama, laughs, adventures, setbacks, and triumphs, just like any good story in a movie, play, TV show, or book. Do you have an imaginative guide who inspires you? And, as you take this journey, think about who you inspire!