



# The Night Telephone

## Sample lesson plan

Dr. Tarak Kapoor cannot sleep. He has just taken a job as a telemedicine doctor in Texas. Garnet is two days away from his home in Mumbai. By 2:30 a.m. he is wandering the empty streets. He finds a brightly lit pay telephone next to a set of broken traffic lights. Even though it's the middle of the night, people drive up and make calls. Who are they calling?

The mystery deepens when Tarak retraces his steps the next day. All he finds is an empty lot. Perhaps he has made a mistake. But when he returns that night, the phone booth is back in its spot, glowing brightly. As Tarak looks at the phone, it begins to ring. Will he answer the night telephone?

### Read out loud!

The teacher can model by reading the first paragraph of a chapter. Then, students can read one by one or in groups, a chapter at a time. This can take several classes or sessions. A separate audiobook helps with fluency and retention.

You will encounter new vocabulary that you can discuss ahead of time:

curry	telephone receiver	beloved
Hindi	antique	elementary school
motorbikes	telemedicine	preparation
refrigerator	lectures	used car dealer
carpet	workshops	passenger seat
apartment complex	patient	paperwork
sirens	technology	jet lag
colleague	mystery	breakup
teaching hospital	rotary-style	original
big box store	fascinating	static
streetlights	specialized	burritos
traffic lights	balcony	smothered
dry cleaner	slacks	cricket
laundry service	ex-wife	nickname
pay telephone	divorce	rumor

Here are some **videos** that illustrate a few of the topics outlined in the book. Use these to begin a discussion about:

- Phone booths! Funny history:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rAoyO92kIc>
- Mumbai! Without any words, here is a look at some streets, scenes, and smiles from Tarak's home city:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd7s9plsrGo>
- Immigrants! People from other countries who work in the White House:  
<https://youtu.be/OjhqkTJF5L8>

[This video has a transcript. Using the technique of **shadow reading**, students can try to read at the same speed as the person who is talking. This practice helps with pronunciation and accent. It may take several tries.]

Class **activities and discussions**:

- Geography: Trace Tarak's journey. Find Mumbai, Paris, New York, Houston and Garnet on a map. How many miles separate these cities?
- Geography: Find the countries of Tarak's colleagues on a map. (p.20)
- Questions: Have you ever used a telephone booth? A pay phone? What is a rotary dial telephone?
- Question: Have you "seen" a doctor by computer? Is it different from "face-to-face" visits to the doctor?
- Discussion: If you have come from another country, what are some strange things in your new country? What things do you not understand? Maybe your teacher or classmates can help!
- Discussion: This story is a mystery. Discuss the meaning and what makes a good mystery.



**The Night Telephone** by Greta Gorsuch, read by the author

Putting a finger on the text while listening to the audio can improve language fluency. Help readers engage with the content in two modalities... it's fun!