TRRRRRRRIIIIIING.
Tiffin time.

Meenu finds idli and podi in her tiffin box.
When will Amma pack something new?
Meenu hates lunch break.
Yummy smells waft towards her from other tables. Meenu’s tummy growls and her mouth waters. She pushes her lunch away.

Three rows behind, Kamlesh is sulking. Her tiffin looks yummy. Doesn’t she like it?
Kamlesh looks up and sees Meenu with her tiffin box. “Amma has sent me idlis again,” says Meenu.

Kamlesh shrugs at her own box. “Jowar bhakri and bhaji. Again.”
Meenu’s tummy rumbles.

"Can I taste it?" asks Meenu.
Kamlesh pushes her tiffin towards Meenu and grabs Meenu’s box.
Kamlesh gobbles up Meenu’s idlis. Meenu wolfs down Kamlesh’s jowar bhakri.
The next day, Meenu counts the minutes to tiffin time. Amma has packed extra idlis for Kamlesh.

**Trrrrrring!**

Kamlesh slides over to make space for Meenu. Today, Kamlesh’s box is filled with mutke.
Sachi comes over with her tiffin box. “I have pakhala bhata with potatoes. I saw both of you sharing your tiffin yesterday,” she says. “Can I join in?”
“Yes, yes, Sachi!” says Meenu. She stands up and bangs her tiffin box lid on the desk.

“Attention, everyone! Kamlesh, Sachi and I are having a tiffin party. Today we will eat idlis, mutke and pakhala bhata. Who wants to join us?”
There is a scramble.
The whole class crowds around Kamlesh’s desk for the tiffin party.
Some tiffin boxes have a little food in them, some have lots. Some have spicy food, some sweet. There is tangy pickle and some bitter karela. But there is enough to fill all the hungry tummies in the room.
Meenu loves tiffin time now. Why wouldn’t she when every day is a party?
Santula, tarwat bhaji, aloo poha, parantha and achaar... Meenu has found her tiffin box gang.
Idli: This is a savoury steamed rice cake.

Podi: This is made from ground spices. Mixed with a little coconut or sesame oil, it is eaten with idlis.

Jowar bhakri: This is a roti made of jowar or sorghum flour and water.
Mutke: This is made with coriander leaves and jowar flour.

Pakhala bhata: This is slightly watery rice that can be eaten with vegetables.

Bhaji: This is made from tarwat, a leafy wild vegetable.
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Other Credits:
'The Tiffin Gang' has been published by Pratham Books. The development of this book has been supported by P.A.N.I. Foundation.
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The Tiffin Gang
(English)

Meenu dislikes tiffin time because Amma always gives her idlis. But what do her classmates bring for lunch? Meenu decides to peek into their boxes and find out.

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.

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