

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *Miss Rumphius*.

Author: Barbara Cooney

Publisher/Date: Puffin Books, 1985.

Grade level: Pre-K – 5

Summary: Alice Rumphius was a little girl who loved the sea and wanted to travel around the world. Her grandfather told her that she must do one more thing: do something to make the world more beautiful.

Reading/Writing Connections

1. Read the dedication at the beginning of the book. Ask students to suggest possible reasons for this dedication Tell them we will keep their ideas on the board and talk about them again after we read the story.
2. Read the story and review the reasons for the dedication. Discuss these and decide on the reasons they feel are most likely.
3. Talk about whether they would or would not like to have Miss Rumphius as a relative. Do they have any relatives that remind them of Miss Rumphius?
4. Invite students to Interview their parents, grandparents, or other family member to find out any family stories they might be able to share.
5. Have students brainstorm about other possible endings to the story. This could lead to a creative writing project.
6. Tell students to write about one of the following: What would you like to do when you grow up? Where would you like to live? What would you do to make the world a better place?

Vocabulary/Spelling

bristling	conservatory	figurehead	hollow
isle	Iupines	jasmine	masts
proW	stoop	tropical	wharves

Library Connections

1. Research the history or anything about cigar store Indians (World Book Ency.)
2. Find out about the figureheads of ships (World Book and other books on ships)
3. Find out where the Land of the Lotus Eaters is and why it is called that. (Ency. and books on the country after discovery)
4. Other Books: explore other books about what one wants to do when they grow up or what they do as an older person. Examples might be:
Hattie and the Wild Waves by Cooney
Emma by Kesselman(in Open Court Reader)
Island Boy by Cooney
The Art Lesson by Tomie dePaola.

Social Studies Connections

1. Discuss the countries Miss Rumphius may have visited, where she grew up, and where she settled. At this point some of the library research would possibly be needed. Using push pins on a map might be helpful.

2. After the above, have students draw a possible route she may have taken, providing a world map outline for each student or for cooperative learning groups.

Science Connections

1. Make seed pictures of a flower using different seeds after reading and discussing the story. This is also an art connection but could be used here for seed identification.
2. Grow seeds in the classroom, hopefully finding some lupine seed also. Students could chart germination time and note other differences.

Math Connections

1. Use lupine model in teaching the concept of multiplication by designing each lupine to have the same number of petals. (ex: 5 groups of 6 = 5 lupines having SIX petals each.)
2. Sorting exercises with seeds size, shape, color, etc.
3. Discuss the ways seed travel.

Language Arts Connections

1. Vocabulary and spelling are noted above.
2. Have students examine the excellent descriptive vocabulary used in the text.

Art Connections

1. Seed pictures
2. Create postcards from the countries Miss Rumphius visited (S. S. connection also).
3. Soap carving could be done depending on the age of the students and the safety of the materials used.

Publishing

1. Create displays of creative work in art, science, and social studies with appropriate titles.
2. Have students share interview material and published compositions in seminar.

*activities based on grade level 2; can be adjusted for any level Pre-k to 5.