

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *When Africa Was Home.*

Author: Karen Lynn Williams

Publisher/Date: Orchard Books, 1991.

Grade Level: K-2

Summary: After returning to the United States, Peter's whole family misses the warmth and friendliness of their life in Africa; so Peter's father looks for another job there.

READING/WRITING CONNECTIONS

1. Draw a picture of a cap and color it with a variety of bright colors. Explain that sometimes colors and things can remind us of good times. Ask them if they can think of things that remind them of good times.
2. Show the book. Talk about the author.
3. Ask students to predict what the story is about.
4. As you read point out how colorfully the people dress. Talk about the illustrator's use of color.
5. Give students paper and crayon.
6. Tell them to draw a cap and make it as colorful as they can.
7. Have students cut out their caps.
8. Assist them in punching a hole in the top of the cap.
9. Let students put string through the hole.
10. Tell students to hang their cap somewhere in their room, i.e., door knob. Explain that they can look at the cap and remember the story just as Peter looked at the colors in his cap and remembered Africa.

VOCABULARY/SPELLING

afternoon	antelope	chewed	Chichewa	comfortable
cross	delicious	frown	jacaranda	maize
mayi	mosquito	nanny	paste	paw-paw
pieces	sauce	screech	shadow	shimmy
soothed	stalk	stringy	sugarcane	Yekha

LIBRARY CONNECTIONS

1. Share other books on other cultures and countries:
2. Anita Lobel's *Away from Home*
3. Nila K. Leigh's *Learning to Swim in Swaziland: A Child's-Eye View of a Southern African Country*
4. Direct students to areas of the media center where they can find more information on the different countries and cultures.
5. Share another story about some other culture.

SOCIAL STUDIES CONNECTIONS

1. Research information on an African nation to include its history.
2. Bring in old magazines with pictures of African countries and allow students to make collages.

ART CONNECTIONS

1. Let students draw scenes from the story.

PUBLISHING

1. Hang students' work in highly visible area.