

Choose-Your-Own Adventure Storytime

For Grades 1-2

Laurel Rakas

Choose an assortment of books from around the world. (Read them to make sure they are appealing read-alouds.) Here are some of my suggestions:

Africa: “Sense Pass King” by Tchana, Katrin, “Where are you Going, Manyoni?” by Stock, Catherine, “I Lost my Tooth in Africa” by Diakite, Penda, “Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain” by Aardema, Verna

Antarctica: “The Emperor’s Egg” by Jenkins, Martin, “Penguin Problems” by John, Jory, “Lost and Found” Jeffers, Oliver, “Sophie Scott goes South” by Alison Lester

Asia: “Monsoon” by Krishnaswami, Uma “The Sound of Silence” by Goldsaito, Katrina , “One Grain of Rice” by Demi, “Day of Ahmed’s Secret” by Heide, Florence Parry

Australia: “Diary of a Wombat” by French, Jackie, “Koala Lou” by Fox, Mem, “Are We There Yet” by Lester, Alison, “Over in Australia: Amazing Animals Down Under” by Berkes, Marianne

Europe: “The Cat Who Walked Across France” by Banks, Kate, “Strega Nona” by DePaola, Tomi, “Tale of Peter Rabbit” by Potter, Beatrix, “The Story of Ferdinand” by Leaf, Munro

North America: “Thunder Boy Jr” by Alexie, Sherman, “Tar Beach” by Ringgold, Faith, “Blizzard” by Rocco, John, “The Relatives Came” by Cynthia Rylant, “Drum Dream Girl” by Engle, Margarita, “The Blizzard’s Robe” by Sabuda, Robert,

South America: “The Great Kapok Tree” by Cherry, Lynne, “Love and Roast Chicken” by Knutson, Barbara, “Biblioburro: A True Story from Columbia” by Winter, Jeanette, “Carolina’s Gift: a Story of Peru” by Diaz, Katacha

Make a small “passport” folder for each of the Seven Continents. Put a numbered ticket in the passport for each book you include for that continent.

Bring a globe or world atlas and have an audience volunteer pick a continent. Have an audience member pick a ticket out of the passport. The books you bring should have a corresponding number (use a post-it note). Read the book they pick.

Because you have a large assortment of books, you can use this idea multiple times.

Multi-cultural books you can feature:

“The Way to School” by McCarney, Rosemary (j372.912)

“Say Hello” by Isadora, Rachel

“This is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World” by LaMothe, Matt

“Everybody Cooks Rice” by Dooley, Norah

“Speaking American: How Y’all, Youse , and You Guys Talk: A Visual Guide” by Katz, Josh (427.973)

Bring a Mystery Bag

Put together a collection of small items from around the world. You can either show them one at a time and have children guess where they come from, or you can give them hints about the items and when they guess correctly, show them the object.

We’re Different, We’re the Same:

Discuss how and what people around the world eat. Bring chopsticks and small objects like uncooked beans or M+Ms for the students to challenge their dexterity. Talk about how people dress and what homes look like in different parts of the world.

Songs:

You can include songs and activities from around the world.

For example “Che Che Kule” a fun chant from Ghana, “Frere Jaques” a familiar French tune, “Los Politos Dicen” a children’s song in Spanish.

TICKET # _____

CONTINENT _____