

Book: One Green Apple
Author: Bunting
Age Level: Grades 1-3

This book is about a Muslim girl who enters a new school. The class goes to the apple orchard and Farrah must try to communicate with her classmates. She is shy and nervous. The children look at her strangely. I would read this book and then have a conversation about people speaking different languages. I would ask the students if they know people who do not speak English and how they have communicated. I would then have them do an activity with a partner where neither of them are allowed to speak. They could put a puzzle together or build something without talking. This would give them the experience of communicating without words.

Book: Hot Day on Abbot Avenue
Author: English
Age Level: Grades 1-3

This story is about two friends, Kishi and Renee, who are mad at each other. They are refusing to play together or speak until the ice cream man comes and they share a popsicle. This is a fun book and I would use it to discuss conflict. After reading it I would have the students role-play different scenarios that they may come across. They would focus on being in fights with friends and how to solve the problem. This would help them to practice getting along with others.

Book: Grandpa's Face
Author: Greenfield
Age Level: 4 and higher

This book is about a young girl, Tamika, who loves her grandfather and all his faces. She can tell what he is thinking or feeling by looking at his face. I would use this book to talk about facial expressions. No matter where we come from we make faces that communicate with others. Many of the faces such as a smile mean the same thing in all cultures. For an activity I would use pictures of people making faces and match them with words. I could also have cards with the words on it such as scared, angry, mad, etc. and kids would have to make that face. It would help make kids more aware of what people's faces are telling them.

Book: Houses and Homes
Author: Morris
Age Level: 4 and higher

This book is a photographic documentation of the homes people live in around the world. There are real photographs of dwellings with a description of who live in them and where they are located. We could talk about why people would choose to live in a home like this based on weather and terrain. We would then draw

a picture of where we live. We can share with a group or partner about why we live in this type of dwelling and how it keeps us safe. It is likely that most of our houses will be similar but we could talk about how homes are different and alike.

Book: Whoever You Are
Author: Fox
Age Level: 4 and higher

This is a wonderful book that many teachers use in their classrooms. It talks about how no matter what we look like or where we live we are all alike. I would use this book to talk about community. A strong sense of community is important in any classroom and this book can foster that idea. After reading I would do an art project with the students. They will each get a puzzle piece. They will decorate it any way they choose to represent themselves. Then we can put the puzzle together. We are all individuals but each one of us is needed to make our classroom community. Just as all the pieces of the puzzle are needed to complete the puzzle.

Book: How Many Donkeys? An Arabic Counting Tale
Author: MacDonald
Age Level: 3-6

This is a fun book that integrates Arabic numbers to tell the tale of a young boy who brings ten donkeys into town. He keeps counting his donkeys but gets a different number depending on whether he was riding or walking. On each page there are Arabic numbers to count the donkeys. There is also a website where the author reads each number so you can hear how they are pronounced. In the classroom we can discuss why they are riding donkeys and how we would most likely be riding horses in America. I think it would be fun to make an American counting book. Kids could make a book where they choose the objects to count on each page. Objects should be things that they can find in school or in their home. This will practice counting and open the discussion for how different cultures use different things and animals.

Book: Dear Primo: a Letter to My Cousin
Author: Tonatiuh
Age Level: 5 and higher

This book explores the lives of two children, one American and one Mexican. Charlie makes pizza while Carlitos makes quesadillas. The boys are cousins who write back and forth to talk about their lives. It is a great way to compare and contrast the Mexican and American cultures. I would use this book to introduce the idea of pen pals. I am fortunate enough to have a friend who teaches in France. We have always talked about our students writing back and forth as pen pals. It would be a fun and exciting way to explore the French culture. My students can learn that even though there are kids that speak a different language and live far away, they are still similar to them.

Book: Rough Faced Girl
Author: Martin
Age Level: 6-8

I use this book every year with my students. It is a Cinderella tale from the Algonquin Indian tribe. The moral of the story is that you should not judge someone by what they look like on the outside. It has the ugly mean sisters just like Cinderella and parallels the classic fairy tale. I use the book to compare/contrast the cultures of Americans today and Americans centuries ago. We talk about the author's message. With my third graders we fill out a Venn diagram as a graphic organizer. I have also read other Cinderella tales and done the same. Since most people know the story it is a great tool to explore the cultural differences around the world.

Book: I Love my Hair!
Author: Tarpley
Age Level: 4 and higher

In this book a young girl is complaining about getting her hair combed by her mother. Her mother tells the girl, Keyana, all the pretty things that can be done with her hair. The girl is African-American so there are many styles that are applicable for her that other children would not be able to accomplish. It discusses how special the girl's features are. I would like to read this book and then have the students make a self-portrait. I would provide many different materials for them to add hair onto their portrait. They could choose the color and texture of their hair and then style it the way they would like. We can share our self-portraits and talk about why we chose to do our hair this way.

Book: What Can You Do With a Paleta?
Author: Tafolla
Age Level: 3-6

This book is about a Latinio neighborhood that enjoys the paleta wagon coming through town. A paleta is like a Popsicle made from fresh fruit. We can compare it to a Popsicle. I imagine using this book on a hot summer day and then making paletas with the students. For the younger students I would just focus on what it tastes like and feels like in our mouths. With the older students we can discuss how it is different and alike a Popsicle that we are used to eating. We could even talk about nutrition and which would be healthier to eat. This would be a fun sensory lesson.

Websites

Perpetual preschool

This website had many songs that were “All About Me.” The songs focus on what makes us special. There are also songs that teach kids to be proud of themselves and who they are. Some of the songs refer to God, which I would not be able to use in my current teaching assignment as I work in a public elementary school. I think that music makes learning really fun. The songs are cute and short so they could be used at circle time in the morning. This would be a fun way to remind children that they are all special.

My favorite was:

(Tune: Twinkle, twinkle)

Special, special, special me
How I wonder what I'll be
In this big world I can be
Anything I want to be
Special, special, special me
How I wonder what I'll be

I like it because it lets kids know that they can be anything they want to be. This is something we work hard to educate our students about at my school. We want them to have goals for their lives.

Preschool Rainbow

This website has an eclectic composite of songs, art projects, and lessons to integrate multicultural activities into the preschool classroom. There were many that I thought sounded fun to use. I remember learning Pollito, Chicken in a Spanish class I took as a young child (seeing that made me smile). I really liked the first couple of lessons that included using passports. I read many multicultural stories throughout the year. As we read them we can talk about where the characters are from. We can then keep track of all the countries we read about in a passport. At the end of the year students can take the passport home and share the stories with their parents. This is how I would use this idea in my classroom but if I worked with younger kids I would use the passport for a shorter period of time since younger children will not retain the information as long. My third graders on the other hand remember the books we read throughout the school year.

First School

This site has links to units pertaining to several countries around the world. There are arts and crafts and activities that help children learn about different countries. I think this site can be very useful in the classroom. If I were to do a mini-unit on a country I would look to this site for activities. Sometimes we discuss different cultures. For example, when we read Patricia Polacco's books she makes

references to her Jewish heritage. The site has coloring sheets about Hanukkah. When we discuss Polacco and her background we can use the resources from this site to enhance the story.

Everything Preschool

I found the organization of this site to be very navigable. I like the different categories because many times I will be looking for just a song, book, or game. I was a little disappointed that you would have to become a member to view everything the website has to offer. If I were going to use this site I would probably begin with finding a book that relates to the concept we are working with in the curriculum. Then I would explore the rest of the site to find activities to go along with that book. Songs are fun to use and perhaps an art project. I really liked the idea of cutting open an apple to see that they are all the same on the inside but look different on the outside just like people. I think that would leave an impact on young students.

Mama Lisa's World, <http://www.mamalisa.com/>

I was pretty excited to find this site. The most useful part of the site is Kids Songs From Around the World. When you click on a continent you are brought to a page with a list of countries on the continent. They have the song in the native language of that country and then it is translated into English. It is really fun to see what the different languages look like in written word. This would really enhance a unit about one of these countries. There is also a link that leads to recipes and treats. This allows for a sensory experience that young children really enjoy.