RECOMMENDED READING

Supplemental reading suggestions for Roots of Rhythm, the hands-on world drumming curriculum developed to integrate global education, arts and academics in school classrooms.
Roots of Rhythm

World Drumming for All Ages

Recommended Reading

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Developed in conjunction with leading educators, Roots of Rhythm is a groundbreaking, hands-on resource that supports global education goals and state curriculum standards in core academic subjects while augmenting general classroom activities with a variety of music and art projects.

The curriculum is written by professional percussionist and renowned ethnomusicologist, Dr. Craig Woodson, and is designed to teach students about world cultures by demonstrating the role that music has played in human development and global migration and encouraging them to become actively engaged in the learning process through making and playing drums. With its cross-curricular, multi-cultural, arts and academics approach, Roots of Rhythm puts the fun in fundamentals and brings essential developmental skills such as creative thinking and problem solving, art and cultural diversity appreciation, teamwork, self-discipline and positive self-expression to students, classrooms, schools and communities.

Learners, both young and old, benefit from Roots of Rhythm’s inter-disciplinary method by:
• Learning about cultural diversity through its similarities and differences.
• Working cooperatively and communicating with others.
• Analyzing, interpreting and connecting ideas from different academic disciplines.
• Practicing academic concepts through hands-on music participation.
• Discovering the social, cultural and historical roles of music and rhythm.

Roots of Rhythm content, including the Guide, support materials and audio exercises and examples as well as general information about the program and the availability of local teacher training workshops, is available as free downloads from the Roots of Rhythm website, www.rootsofrhythm.net.

Using RoR Recommended Reading
Books cover the following categories of grade levels:
• Primary Reading
• Upper Elementary
• Middle School
• High School
• All Ages Reading

Researched by leading music educator, Jessica Baron, Recommended Reading provides grade-by-grade suggestions for literary resources found in most libraries that parallel chapters in the Roots of Rhythm. Such connections to Language Arts further facilitates the program’s goals of teaching for both deeper meaning and enduring understanding. Used in conjunction with Classroom Connections, Recommended Readings provides additional ways that teachers can use Roots of Rhythm to teach fundamental academic concepts and cultural diversity while meeting state mandated educational standards.
About the Recommended Readings Author
Jessica Baron founded and serves as Executive Director for Guitars in the Classroom, an organization that brings music making to education by integrating singing, strumming and songwriting with learning throughout the school day and across the curriculum. Jessica created the first developmental guitar instruction method and she has written six groundbreaking books in the field of music and guitar education. She believes that we are each unique musical and creative beings with individual pathways we can choose to discover and follow if we are given instruction in the ways we best learn. This vision informs and fuels her dedication to service through teaching.

Jess spent several years in California teaching music in public and private schools; she also worked for a long time as both a human development educator (at Crossroads School of Arts and Sciences) and as a private educational therapist treating children and teens with learning disabilities. These experiences, combined with Masters Level training in Clinical Psychology from Antioch University helped her develop an approach to teaching music that creates access to musicality through people’s dominant learning styles while helping them strengthen the others. This, combined with her philosophy that musical learning can be fun and stress free, define her work as an author, teacher, and non-profit leader.

In addition to her years teaching in the classroom and counseling young people, Jess co-authored the highly successful MusicMakers curriculum for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, as well as the International House of Blues Foundation’s Make an Impression guitar program. Her best-selling guitar method, SmartStart Guitar as well as her parenting book, YOUR MUSICAL CHILD: Inspiring Kids to Play and Sing for Keeps (Hal Leonard, 2004) are soon to be followed by The Green Songbook & CD from Alfred Music Publishing. This compilation of music for living lightly on the Earth will be in stores in January, 2011.

Also published under the name Jessica Baron Turner, today Jessica Anne Baron is also an incidental songwriter, an enthusiastic gardener, a vegetarian, and lover of literature.

On behalf of the Percussion Marketing Council, thank you for incorporating the Roots of Rhythm into your students’ classroom activities.

Feel free to contact us at www.rootsofrhythm.net with any questions or comments.
Chapter 1 - The Adufe from Portugal

PRIMARY READING


Kitten’s Adventure/As Aventuras Do Gatinho by Michele (ilt) Coxon (2006) Star Bright Books. When Little Kitten sets out to explore the world, he discovers the wonderful sights and sounds made by the animals and insects in the farmyard. Brightly colored illustrations are filled with charming animals, birds, insects, and plants that small...

Let's Learn Portuguese Picture Dictionary by Marlene Goodman (1992) Passport Pictures. Labeled in English and Portuguese, words are grouped in such familiar categories as "Our House," "The Four Seasons," "In the City," "In the Ocean," and "Colors." Includes bilingual indexes with pronunciation guide...


UPPER ELEMENTARY READING


The Sea Chest by Toni Buzzeo, illustrated by Mary GrandPre (Dial, 2002). First-time author Buzzeo is paired with HARRY POTTER illustrator GrandPre in a book that lovingly and poetically captures the stirring magic of a foundling babe who becomes a treasured sister. Maita says: "I longed for a time I might not be the only child the craggy island knew." The time is now. Spectacular, musical, and deeply affecting.
Chapter 2 - The Bongos from Cuba

PRIMARY READING

The Bossy Gallito by Lucia M. Gonzalez, Lulu Delacre. Scholastic; Blg Rep edition (1999). Lively retelling of a traditional Cuban folktale, in Spanish and English – a bossy little rooster, gallito, asks the grass, the goat, the stick, the fire, the water to help him out, but they will not, until the gallito calls upon his friend, the sun.

Cuba: The Culture by April Fast, Susan Hughes. Crabtree Publishing Company; (2004). Get to know the rich culture of Cuba – yearly festivals and holidays, religion (Santería is the most popular), Carnaval (a mix of African and Catholic customs), music and dance (rumba, mambo, chachachá, salsa), art and folktales.


Señor Cat's Romance by Lucia M. Gonzalez, Lulu Delacre. Scholastic; (2001) Delightful stories of Juan Bobo and the three-legged pot, Martina the little cockroach, the kind, foolish Señor Cat who needs his nine lives, and more. "The stories in this collection were first told to me by my great-aunt when I was still a child in Cuba."

UPPER ELEMENTARY READING

Celia Cruz: Queen of Salsa by Veronica Chambers, Julie Maren. Dial (2005) In Havana there lived a girl, Celia Cruz, and she sang like a bird. A vibrant story of Celia Cruz, growing up in Cuba, her family, her singing, her dreams.

Free Baseball by Sue Corbett (Dutton, 2006). Felix loves baseball and longs for the day when his father, who's a baseball star in Cuba, will join him and his mother in Florida. When a team with a couple of players who might be Cuban comes to town, Felix takes advantage of being mistaken for the bat boy to stow away in the team bus. Exciting and heartfelt—a home run!

Oye Celia!: A Song for Celia Cruz by Katie Sciruba, Edel Rodriguez. Henry Holt and Co. (2007) "When I hear you, I hear Cuba –" Incredible illustrations capture the heart and music of Celia Cruz, evocative rhythms of la salsa, a blend of African, Caribbean and European, songs of sadness and happiness. Azúcar!


MIDDLE SCHOOL READING

Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Being Young and Latino in the United States. edited by Lori M. Carlson, introduction by Oscar Hijuelos (Henry Holt, 2005). From the anthologist who brought us Cool Salsa, this new collection reaches farther and deeper, chronicling the perspective of young Latinos.

Cubanita by Gaby Triana (HarperCollins, 2005). Unlike Mami, Isa is no Cubanita. Of course she loves her family, but the U.S. is the only home she knows. What's more, Isa has broken up with her boyfriend, is busy teaching kids art at a summer camp, and is not getting involved with any boy so as to leave for the University of Michigan with a clear head. But then she meets a man and Mami suddenly may need her more than ever. What's this non-Cubanita to do?
Chapter 3 - The Buhai from Romania

ALL AGES READING

Romania: An Illustrated History by Nicolae Klepper Hippocrene Books (February 2003)

Taste of Romania: Its Cookery and Glimpses of Its History, Folklore, Art, Literature, and Poetry by Nicolae Klepper Hippocrene Books (1999). Over 140 recipes, including the specialty dishes of Romania's top chefs, are intermingled with fables, poetry, illustrations, and photos. "A brilliant cultural and culinary history of this little-known country . . . a collection of recipes to be treasured, tested, and enjoyed.

Chapter 4 - The Djembé from Guinea

ALL AGES READING


In Search of Africa by Manthia Diawara, Harvard University Press (2000). With unending images of cultural backwardness and tribal wars saturating Western airwaves, the continent of Africa remains the most misunderstood region on Earth. An evenhanded and empirical look at the past, present, and future of West Africa.
Chapter 5 - The Dondo from Ghana

PRIMARY READING


I am Kofi by Meshack Asare (VALCO: 1968)

Meliga's Day by Meshack Asare was published by Sub-Saharan Publishers in 2000.


Tawia Goes to Sea by Meshack Asare (GPC: 1970)

UPPER ELEMENTARY READING

Ghana Welcomes You by Meshack Asare (VALCO: 1968),

Island of No Return by Annoh, G. Kwesi, Accra, Ghana: Educational Press, 1993


Sosu's Call by Meshack Asare is the winner of the 1999 UNESCO First Prize for Children’s and Young People’s Literature in the Service of Tolerance.

Chapter 6 - The Kakko from Japan

PRIMARY READING

**A Carp for Kimiko** by Katherine Roundtree, Charlesbridge Publishing, 1996. Kimiko yearns for a carp-shaped kite like her brother's to fly on Children's Day but only boys get colorful kites. Her understanding parents get her a real carp for her fish tank instead.

**Allison** by Allen Say (Houghton Mifflin, 1997). When she tries on her kimono, Allison realizes that she looks more like Mei Mei, the doll she's always had, than she does either of her parents. She breaks some of her parents’ things, and she says she doesn't belong to them. But by befriending a stray cat, Allison subtly comes to find there are many ways to create a family.


**Ho-Limlim; A Rabbit Tale from Japan** by Tejima, Philomel, 1990. An aging rabbit takes one last foray hunting for food but decides to let his children and grandchildren search for treats for him.

**I Livein Tokyo** by Mari Takabayashi (Houghton Mifflin, 2001). In a clear, child's voice, young readers are treated to an illustrated tour of one of the great cities.

**I Have a New Friend** by Kathleen Allan-Meyer, photos by Mike Spinelli. Barron's Educational Series, 1995. Saki is a little Japanese girl whose best friend is Lisa. Lisa learns about Japanese customs, Saki learns about American ways, and language is no barrier to their friendship.


**Peach Boy** From Troll. Asian Legends Reading Centers. Publisher's catalog. A baby boy who came to a childless couple from a giant peach grows up to fight the terrible ogres and save the townspeople.

**Sachiko Means Happiness** by Kimiko Sakai, illustrated by Tomie Arai. Children's Book Press, 1990. 28p. Although at first five-year-old Sachiko is upset when her grandmother does not recognize her, she grows to understand they can still be happy together.

**The Tale of the Mandarin Duck**. By Katherine Paterson,. Illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon. Lodestar, 1990. [Picture Book]. Boston Globe Horn Book Award. A pair of Mandarin ducks, separated by a cruel lord who seeks to possess the drake for his colorful beauty, reward a compassionate couple who risk their lives to reunite the ducks.

UPPER ELEMENTARY READING


**Two Mrs. Gibsons** by Toyomi Igus, pictures by Daryl Wells (Children's Book Press, 1997). Delightful celebration of a child's love for the two Mrs. Gibson’s in her life, her Japanese-American mother and her African American grandmother.
Dumpling Soup by Jama Kim Rattigan, illustrated by Lillian Hsu-Flanders (Little Brown, 1992). Marisa enjoys preparing dumplings with her Chinese, Japanese, Korean, haole (white) family in celebration of the New Year. This charming picturebook is rare in that it's set in Hawaii and features a multiracial family.

The Boy of the Three Year Nap by Dianne Snyder, illustrated by Allen Say (Houghton Mifflin, 1988). Taro is smart but lazy. He won't help his own mother around the house. He sets in motion a plan to have all his wishes fulfilled without working, but his mother has plans for him, too. A Caldecott Honor Book. Ages 4-up.

The Loyal Camp (a Japanese tale) retold by Lensey Namioka, illustrated by Aki Sogabe (Browndeer, 1995). The Loyal Cat was recognized with a Golden Kite Award by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

The Magin Fan by Keith Baker (Harcourt, 1989). The story of Yoshi, who loves to build, and how he realizes he can rebuild the village, even without the magic fan. A uniquely designed picture book with pages cut like fans.

Tsubu the Little Snail by Carol Ann Williams, illustrated by Tatsuro Kiuchi Simon & Schuster (1995). A retelling of a baby snail given by the Water God to a rice farmer and his wife to raise as their son. The snail goes on to marry a kind-hearted young woman, and they all are rewarded for their patience, respect, and love.

The Farmer and the Poor God by Ruth Wells, Illus. by Yoshi. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 1996. A poor god living in the attic of an unsuccessful family prepares to move with them and causes a reversal of their fortunes. Values discussion.

Little Sister by Kara Dalkey (Harcourt, 1996). Set in twelfth century Japan, Mitsuko has grown up the sheltered daughter. But when her family falls victim to raiders, she bravely journeys to the land of the dead.

F is for Fabuloso by Marie G. Lee (Avon, 1999). Jin-Ha's teachers assume she must be performing amazing well in math class because... well, don't all Asian Americans? But in this stereotype-busting story, they're wrong. Jin-Ha is smart, but it doesn't come naturally to her, and having a bad teacher just makes matters worse. But when she lies to her immigrant parents about the F on her test, will a bully turn friend? And will Jin-Ha ever manage to set things right? A sweet, fairly quiet, sometimes funny novel.


Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr. Illustrated by Ed Young. G. P. Putnam, 1993. Picture Book. Biography. Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, Sadako Sasaki races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes to verify the legend that by doing so a sick person can become healthy again. Note: Library of Congress CIP gives nonfiction or biography. JMU Carrier Library has it in traditional literature.

Tokyo by James E. Davis, and Sharryl B. Hawker. Raintree, 1990. 64p. Explores the history, cultural heritage, demographics and natural resources of Japan. Demographic information will be out-of-date.

Tokyo by Deborah Kent, Children's Press, 1996. 64p. Good introduction to the capital city of Japan with its subways, streets and buildings, sports, theater and celebration of ancient religious traditions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL READING

Ninjas, Piranhas, and Galileo by Greg Leitich Smith (October, 2003).* What three best friends in Chicago find out about the Land of the Rising Sun, Pygocentrus nattereri, and Galileo’s choice, among other things, makes for a hilarious and intelligent read filled with wit, wisdom, and a little bit of science.

Roots of Rhythm • Recommended Reading

**One Bird** by Kyoko Mori (Holt, 1995). Set in 1975, Megumi’s work caring for birds helps her come to terms with her mother’s decision to leave her husband and family.
Chapter 7 - The Lakota from North America

**PRIMARY READING**

*Coyote Sings to the Moon.* By Tom King, 1998, color illustrations. It was long ago, before the animals stopped talking to the humans. Coyote wants to join Old Woman and the animals in singing to the moon. But, insulted by the animals (something about his atrocious singing voice), he in turn insults Moon, who packs her bags, slides out of the sky, dives down into the pond and plays chess with the sunfish—leaving everyone in the dark. So Old Woman and the animals try to get her back up to the sky. So of course Coyote—who keeps crashing into things, including a skunk—wants to help again. So Old Woman hatches a plan. Stick around. Big fun is going to happen now, I can tell you that....In case anyone thinks this is one of them “how-it-came-to-be legends,” Tom King made it up.

*Crazy Horse's Vision.* 2000, color illustrations by S.D. Nelson (Lakota). Much has been written about the great visionary and war leader Teshunke Witko, whom the whites know as Crazy Horse, and most of it is little more than speculation from a white perspective. What is known of his childhood and coming to manhood is mostly carried in the stories from generation to generation of the Lakota people. Without polemic, without romanticism, Bruchac tells the story of Crazy Horse's childhood and the vision that was to direct his adult life. The full-color paintings by Lakota artist S.D. Nelson are luminous.

*How Chipmunk Got His Stripes.* By Joseph Bruchac, 2001, color illustrations. The Bruchacs’ rendition of this old story of how little Brown Squirrel becomes Chipmunk just jumps off the pages. As Bear brags that he is so strong he can keep the sun from rising (“The sun will not come up, hummph! The sun will not come up, hummph!”), Brown Squirrel taunts him (“The sun is going to rise, oooh! The sun is going to rise, oooh!”). Although he wins this one, Brown Squirrel also learns it’s not a good thing to tease people. And Bear learns that not everyone can do everything. The youngest listeners will be begging to hear this one over and over.

*Jingle Dancer* by Cynthia Leitich Smith and illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu (Morrow/HarperCollins, 2000).* Jenna, a Muscogee (Creek)-Ojibwe girl, is enthusiastic about wanting to jingle dance at the upcoming powwow. With time running short, she seeks the assistance of women of her contemporary intertribal community in bringing together the remainder of her regalia. A story of reciprocity and respect.

*Neekna and Chemai* by Jeannette Armstrong, (Okanagan),1991, color illustrations. The story of two little girls growing up in the Okanagan Valley before the coming of the white people is part of the Kou-skelowh.

*Raccoon's Last Race.* By Joseph Bruchac, 2004, color illustrations. In this traditional Abenaki story, Azban (Raccoon) is up to his old tricks again, this time challenging the other animals to race, and taunting them at every turn. Having long legs and being a fast runner feeds both his self-confidence and bad manners to the point where he’s gonna really need some comeuppance. Which he gets. As with the Bruchacs’ earlier Turtle’s Race with Beaver and How Chipmunk Got His Stripes, young listeners will ask to hear this one over and over.

*The Turtle Who Went to War and Other Sioux Stories.* told by Eunice B. Alfrey, Ann Lambert Lavina Perry and George White Bird; and illustrated by Eunice B. Alfrey, LaVerne Alfrey, Joseph Clancy and Lisa Ventura. (1978). The turtle chief, angered by the humans, gathers the other animals together to wage war. A young woman secretly follows her beloved into battle and helps him escape from the enemy. A crow, faithful to his human friend, stays with him during a storm and is burned as a result. An owl couple raises a human child, thought dead by his parents, and finally guide him back home. A childless woman shows her patience and generosity to a rabbit, and finds herself blessed with a child.

*Waboseg (An Ojibwe story about Rabbits' ears)* by Lois Beardslee (Ojibwe/Lacandon), 1997, b/w illustrations by the author. “Everyone knows that Waboseg (Rabbits) love wildflowers. In the warmest days of spring, when young Zweegun (Springtime) arrives from the south, to coax old Biboon (Winter) back to his home in the north, the rabbits begin to nibble.” But Zweegun, being just a young girl, “kept forgetting about the job she was supposed to do.” Zweegun's forgetfulness causes the Waboseg to eat too many wildflowers, causing the Amoog (Bees) to make less honey, causing the Mukwag (Bears) to make a difficult decision—and the Waboseg wind up with long ears.
**Wisahkecahk Flies to the Moon.** By Freda Ahenakew, (Cree), 1999, color illustrations. Wisahkecahk gets to the moon by hanging onto the legs of a crane and, when the moon disappears from under him, falls to earth and is covered with mud. That's why the crane's legs are so long, and why those soft spots on earth are called “muskegs.” This traditional Cree story is written in Cree and English, and beautifully illustrated by Sherry Farrell Racette.

**UPPER ELEMENTARY READING**

**The Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich (Ojibway) (Hyperion, 1999). Touching on the same era as the Little House Books by Laura Ingalls Wilder, this first book in a planned triology is in some ways Erdrich's answer to the imbalance in the way Native-white relations have historically been portrayed in children's literature. Readers will be engaged by appealing protagonist, Omakayas, educated by this glimpse at Ojibway daily life, and perhaps inspired to look at history with an eye to different points of view. Elegant writing. 5th graders, strong 4th graders. (also good for grades 6-8).

**Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom**, by Tim Tingle (Choctaw) illustrated by Jeanne Rorex Bridges (Cherokee)/(Cinco Puntos, 2006). Chronicles the important relationship between citizens of Choctaw Nation and those people held in slavery in Mississippi prior to the U.S. Civil War and the Trail of Tears. An evocative story, wonderfully told and gorgeously illustrated. End material includes "Choctaws Today: Two Prosperous Nations, One Strong People" and "A Note on Choctaw Storytelling." Ages 9-up.

**Eagle Song.** 1997, b/w illustrations; Mohawk. Danny Bigtree, a fourth-grade Mohawk youngster whose family has just relocated from the Akwesasne reservation in upstate New York to Brooklyn, has a tough time making friends, especially since the usual teasing of the new kid in class takes the form of racial taunting. How he deals with this, with the help of his family, is a good story.

**Heroes and Heroines, Monsters and Magic.** By Joseph Bruchac, 1985. This collection, including “The Creation,” “Turtle's Race with Bear,” “Turtle Makes War on Men,” and “The Brave Woman and the Flying Head,” contains background, history, the place of stories among the people, and how the stories still live.

**Indian Shoes** by Cynthia Leitich Smith (HarperCollins, 2002).* Ray and Grampa Halfmoon face the challenges of daily life with love and humor in this collection of short stories set in Chicago and rural Oklahoma. Together, they encounter homesickness, bad hair cuts, mystery, artistic competition, and a wedding without proper pants for the ring bearer.

**Pushing Up the Sky: Seven Native American Plays for Children.** By Joseph Bruchac, 2000, b/w and color illustrations. Bruchac uses drama in his adaptations of traditional stories from the Abenaki, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Ojibwe, Snohomish, Tlingit and Zuni nations. Most of these plays are based on “how-it-came-to-be” stories, and feature the trickster-heroes Gluskabe, Rabbit, Wihio and Raven.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL READING**


**Rain is Not My Indian Name**: by Cynthia Leitich Smith (HarperCollins, 2001). Cassidy Rain Berghoff didn’t know that the very night she decided to get a life would be the night that Galen would lose his. It’s been six months since her best friend died, and up until now, Rain has succeeded in shutting herself off from the world. But when controversy arises around her aunt Georgia’s Indian Camp in their mostly white Kansas community, Rain decides to face the world again—at least through the lens of a camera.*
The Range Eternal. By Erdrich, Louise (Ojibwe), 2002, color illustrations. Once there was a time, and that not so long ago, when the land owned us the way we now think we own the land. Outside the cities, it still does. Louise Erdrich’s second picture book comes from such a time, and such a place; from her memories of visits to her grandparents’ home on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. It is told in the voice of a little girl who might have been her mother. “The Range Eternal” is not only the brand name of the family’s beloved wood stove. It is also “the range of the buffalo, who once covered the plains of North Dakota so thickly that they grazed from horizon to horizon.” The pictures convey both the beauty and power of the land, the bitter cold of a Dakota winter, and also the goodness of the life that can be found there. This is a lovely and powerful book.

Skeleton Man by Joseph Bruchac (HarperCollins, 2001). Molly’s parents are gone, vanished. She needs to find answers and a way to go on. But Molly has been taught well of her Mohawk traditions. She understands the importance of dreams. She knows to take them seriously. This contemporary Native American novel is a must read and a scary one at that.
Chapter 8 - The Naqqāra from Turkey

ALL AGES READING

Muslim Child by Rukhsana Khan (Napoleon Publishing-Canada, 1999), Albert Whitman-U.S., Spring 2002). A collection of short stories, poems and prose that examines the world through the eyes of Muslim children.

A Treasury of Turkish Folktales for Children by Barbara K. Walker, 1988. 3,000 Turkish folktales on tape and chose from among them for this charming anthology of stories, short and long.


Chapter 9 - The Ranāt Ėk from Thailand

**PRIMARY READING**


**UPPER ELEMENTARY READING**

Thailand (True Books: Geography: Countries) by David Petersen. Children's Press (CT) (2002) This book takes interesting if uncritical looks at Thailand, offering a positive look at the country, with very general information about the land, monarchy, Buddhism, and Thai elephants. With standard colorful format: large, easy-to-read type, and numerous photos

Taste of Thailand (part of the series Secret World Adventure Team) by Lisa Thompson (Author), Brenda Cantell (Illustrator) Picture Window Books (2006).
Chapter 10 - The Sājāt from Egypt

PRIMARY READING

A Balloon for Grandad by Jane Ray (Orcahird Books, 1988). Sam goes to visit his grandfather in Egypt.

Days of Ahmed’s Secret by Florence Perry Heide and Judith Heide Gilliland (Clarion, 1990). We follow Ahmed through the streets of Cairo.

The Egyptian Cinderella. By Shirley Climo, illus. by Ruth Heller. 1989. 32p. HarperCollins, (0-06-443279-3). Rhodopis, a slave brought to Egypt from northern Greece, was a contemporary of Aesop, and her tale, one of the earliest Cinderella tales, was first recorded by the Roman historian Stabo in 100 B.C., according to an author’s note in this book.

Temple Cat. by Andrew Clements. Illus. by Kate Kiesler. 1996. 32p. Clarion, (0-395-69842-1). Oil paintings on the left pages and a few lines of poetic text in a crosshatched typeface on the right tell the tale of a tawny cat who is considered to be a god at the temple in which he lives in pharaonic Egypt. Bored with being pampered, the cat yearns for an authentic life and leaves his life of luxury. After three days of real hunger and thirst, he meets a farmer and decides to stay with his family and forego the royal life.

UPPER ELEMENTARY READING

Ancient Egyptian People by Sarah McNeill and Sarah Howarth. 1997. 48p. Millbrook, 0-7613-0056-2). This appealing book is organized by the occupations of ancient Egypt, each of which is described in a brief, illustrated chapter, beginning with the pharaoh and working down to the servant. Detailing the cast of characters of Egyptian pharaonic society brings that society into sharp focus. For example, chapters on “The Mummy Maker” and “The Tomb Builder” describe the rituals of death and interment, and “The Robber” describes the justice system. There is a chapter entitled “The Woman,” which spans several social classes. Though the book browses through different dynasties in its examples, these snapshots do not convey the dynamic changes in a civilization that continued for 3,000 years.

Gift of the Nile: An Ancient Egyptian Legend. By Jan M. Mike, illus. by Charles Reasoner. 1996. 32p. Troll, (0-8167-2813-5); (0-8167-2814-3). Taken from a 3,500-year-old papyrus, this heartwarming story of friendship and women’s equality tells of Mutemwia, a palace musician under Pharaoh Senefru, whose candor pleased the pharaoh beyond all else. When she tells him she misses her freedom, he delays giving it to her, not wanting to lose her. Finally, he realizes that life without freedom is useless, and grants her freedom and land of her own. Stylized, two-dimensional faceless figures in the paintings create the impression of a fresco.

Hosni the Dreamer: An Arabian Tale. By Ehud Ben-Ezer, Illus. by Uri Shulevitz. 1997. Farrar. Hosni lives in the desert as a shepherd and works for a sheikh who wants to bring his camels to market. Hosni has always dreamed of the big city, and this is his chance to go. When there, he spends all his money on “a verse,” which warns him, “Don’t cross the water until you know its depth.” The verse saves his life soon after, when all others in the caravan are swept away in a sudden flood in the wadi. Hosni visits many cities and eventually falls in love with a maiden, Zobeide, whose servant was also swept away.

Magid Fasts for Ramadan. By Mary Matthews, illus. by E. B. Lewis. (1996) Clarion. Containing a glossary and brief overview of Islam in the back, this easy reader tells the story of Magid, an Egyptian boy of 8, who, sincerely wishing to be a good Muslim, secretly tries to fast during the holy days of Ramadan, although he is under the recommended age. At age 12, his sister, Aisha, is fasting for the first time, and wishes she weren’t. Giddu, the wise grandfather who lives in their home, finds a happy compromise for both Magid and Aisha. Colorful watercolors show the interior of a modest Egyptian home, with many details of dress and decoration, and depict the family at prayer, breaking fast, and lighting Ramadan lanterns.
Pyramids  By Anne Millard, 1995. 64p. Kingfisher, (0-85697-675-2). Millard’s large, attractive book is devoted to the Egyptian pyramids and the civilization that created them. Richly painted illustrations that seem three-dimensional show people at work in and around the pyramids.

Ramadan. By Suhaib Hamid Ghazi, illus. by Omar Rayyan. 1996. 32p. Holiday (0-8234-1254-7); paper, $6.95 (0-8234-1275-X). Watercolor paintings depict Hakeem, a young Muslim boy, working his way through the month of Ramadan. The focus is on the tenets of Islam more than on the boy, but his presence in the paintings, and at points in the explanation of this sacred time, keeps young readers involved. The conversational tone and the focus on the feelings of young Muslims who fast at school in a non-Muslim country help to build awareness for young American readers. With a glossary of terms included, this book evokes the sense of both solidarity and joy Muslims feel in the fasting and feasting.

Rimonah of the Flashing Sword: A North African Tale by Eric Kimmel, illus. by Omar Rayyan. 1995. 32p. Holiday, (0-8234-1093-5). In this Arabian variant of the Snow White story, Rimonah (named for a pomegranate) is a dark-eyed beauty, who is harbored by Bedouins while growing up. She is skilled as a horsewoman and swordswoman. A ring casts her into a sleeping spell, and 40 thieves, not seven dwarves, put her in a glass coffin. Rimonah and her father, the king, are both saved from the spell, and return to their kingdom, driving out the wicked witch, who falls to her death off a rather Disney-esque exploding magic carpet. A little farfetched and without a clear folkloric “pedigree,” this story is more an imaginative rendering of the classic story than it is an adapted folktale, but it is swashbuckling and enjoyable, with dramatic paintings.

Tutankhamun: The Life and Death of a Pharaoh. By David Murdoch, illus. by Chris Forsey. 1998. 48p. DK, (0-7894-3420-2). This handsome book from the DK Discovery Guides series has many short chapters telling of the discovery of King Tut’s tomb by Howard Carter in 1922, and the life and times of the young king. The splashy, modern, sometimes crowded layout and design contain cutaway photos, colored-pencil cross sections of the tomb, maps, and dioramas, all interspersed with lively text boxes.

Tutankhamen’s Gift Sabuda, Robert. 1994. Atheneum. Black-lined paper-cut illustrations overlaid on paper that looks like Egyptian-style papyrus accompany a story about a shy, weak boy, an outsider, who becomes pharaoh. His “gift” is not the treasure found in King Tut’s tomb in the 1920s by archaeologists, but, rather, that he restores the gods and temples that his elder brother, Amenhotep IV, had destroyed earlier.


The Winged Cat: A Tale of Ancient Egypt. by Deborah Nourse Lattimore (1992). HarperCollins. Waha, the high priest, drowns a cat while trying to catch a jewel, then denies that he did it. Merit, an appropriately named serving girl in the temple of the cat goddess Bastet, loved the cat and protects it by preserving it and complaining to pharaoh about Waha’s killing the cat. When the priest and the girl are sent on a journey to the underworld to prove who is honest, Merit gets through all barriers by repeating the necessary verses from the Books of the Dead and by being able to read! “Spells are words,” says the cat, “If you can read, we will find our way.”

MIDDLE SCHOOL READING

Zekmet the Stone Carver, Mary Stolz, Illus. by Deborah Nourse Lattimore. 1988. 32p. Harcourt, (0-15-299961-2). Khafre, a bored, egocentric pharaoh, wants something more impressive than a pyramid to insure his immortality. His desperate vizier finds Zekmet, a skilled carver, and demands he create a fitting tribute. The sarcasm and necessary williness of Zekmet, who represents the working class, is underscored in this tale. Although the carver did not live to see its completion, Khafre is commemorated by the Sphinx, the colossal statue that was completed by Senmut, Zekmet’s son. Rich lexical choices, irony, and layered meanings make the story suitable for older children.
Habibi by Naomi Nye (Simon & Schuster, 1997 (and Aladdin)). This novel is about a fourteen-year-old Arab-American girl's move from St. Louis to Jerusalem and her experiences with prejudice and religious intolerance that stem from her budding romance with a Jewish boy.
Chapter 11 - The Panderio from Brazil

PRIMARY READING

B Is for Brazil by Maria de Fatimo Campos, Frances Lincoln (2004) From the wilds of the Amazon rain forest to the busy streets of São Paulo; from C is for Carnival to J is for Jangada; from football to Zebu cattle; B Is for Brazil shows this lively South American country in all its colorful diversity. Brazil in Pictures.


How Night Came from the Sea: A Story from Brazil by Mary-Joan Gerson (Author), Carla Golembe (Illustrator) In sure-footed prose brushed with delicate poetry, Gerson retells a Brazilian story of how night was brought to earth from the sea.

The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest by Lynne Cherry. Voyager Books; (2000) If a tree falls in the forest... someone or something will always be there to hear it. Many, many creatures will feel the effects when their source of sustenance and shelter falls to the earth. So when a man is sent into the Amazon rain forest one day, under instructions to chop down a great kapok tree, many eyes watch him nervously. It's not long before he grows tired, though, and the "heat and hum" of the rain forest lulls him to sleep. One by one, snakes, bees, monkeys, birds, frogs, and even a jaguar emerge from the jungle canopy to plead with the sleeping ax-man to spare their home. When the man awakens, startled at all the rare and marvelous animals surrounding him, he picks up his ax as if to begin chopping again, then drops it and walks away, presumably never to return. Unfortunately, there's always someone else who is willing to take his place, but the message of this environmental book is plain: Save the rain forest!

Dancing Turtle: A Folktale from Brazil by Pleasant DeSp, August House (1998). The main character of this Brazilian trickster tale is a chubby turtle with an engaging smile, who loves to play her flute and dance. A man captures her and takes her home for a turtle-soup feast the next day. That afternoon, when he leaves her in his son and daughter's care and goes out to work the fields, Turtle promises to dance for the children if they let her out of the cage. Once freed, Turtle pretends to fall asleep, and subsequently escapes. The father returns home and vows to recapture the cunning animal. An ambiguous conclusion allows readers to determine Turtle's fate.

Children of the World - Frederico: A Child of Brazil by Francois Goalec Blackbirch Press (2005) Located in eastern South America and bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Brazil is a geographically large country with a predominately Catholic population. While coming to know the social and personal activities of a young Brazilian named Frederico, readers discover life in the busy, warm coastal city of Rio.

UPPER ELEMENTARY READING


Brazil: Amazon and Pantanal by David L. Pearson and Les Beletsky, illustrated by Priscilla Barrett, David Beadle, David Dennis, Dan Lane, John Myers, Colin Newman, David Nurney, John O’Neill, and John Sill Interlink Publishing.

Count Your Way Through Brazil by James Haskins (Author), Kathleen Benson (Author), Liz Brenner Dodson (Illustrator) Carolrhoda Books (August 1996) These series titles teach youngsters to count to 10 in a new language (Portuguese) and introduce a faraway country in the process. In Brazil, Haskins and Benson present an engaging look at this vast country through snippets of information about its people, products, and way of life. Bright colorful artwork accurately reflects the nation's lifestyles, landscapes, and wildlife.
Letters Home From - Brazil (Letters Home From) by Marcia S. Gresko Blackbirch Press; (1999) Formatted as letters from a child to a friend back home, these travelogues read as if they've been adapted from a guidebook and focus mostly on famous tourist sights and physical descriptions of the places visited rather than on the people or cultures. The focus in Brazil is more contemporary, and there are a number of pages devoted to the flora and fauna of the rain forest.

The Sea Serpent’s Daughter by Lippert. Troll Communications (1997) Relates the traditional Brazilian legend of how the Sea Serpent’s gift of darkness to his daughter brings night to the people of the rain forest.


MIDDLE SCHOOL READING

Chapter 12 - The Snare Drum from Switzerland

PRIMARY READING

Dear Alexandra: A Story of Switzerland (Making Friends Around the World) by Helen Gudel (Author), Maria Moser (Translator) Soundprints (1999). In letters throughout the year, Alexandra's grandmother describes the routines and celebrations that make up life in her little village in the mountains of Switzerland.

Asterix in Switzerland by "Gosciny" (Author), "Uderzo" (Author), A. Bell (Translator), D. Hockridge (Translator) Hodder Children's Books (1981)

Look What Came From Switzerland by Miles Harvey (Author) "Switzerland is not a very big country...” Franklin Watts (March 2003). Describes many things that originally came from Switzerland, including inventions, food, animals, sports, transportation, and medicine.

UPPER ELEMENTARY READING


Switzerland (Countries: Faces and Places) by Pamela K. Harris (Author), Brad Clemmons (Author) Child's World (2001). Text and plentiful color photos present an informational overview of Switzerland, covering its land, plants and animals, history, schools, language, work, food, recreation, holidays, and other parts of its culture. Also includes national facts, trivia, and related Web sites.
Chapter 13 - The Steel Drum from Trinidad and Tobago

PRIMARY READING

A Little Salmon for Witness: A Story from Trinidad by Rahaman, Vashanti
New York: Lodestar Books, c 1997. Today is Aaji’s birthday, and Rajiv still does not have a present for his grandmother. Luckily it is Good Friday and a holiday in Trinidad, so he can pick a bouquet of wild flowers and grasses in the Savannah while practicing cricket. Whe he discovers why Aaji is unhappy about not having any salmon on this day, he decides instead that fish is the perfect gift for her. But how can he afford such a luxury? Sandra Speidel’s vibrant pastels contributes to this interesting Trinidadian tradition.


No Hickory No Dickory No Dock: A Collection of Caribbean Nursery Rhymes: by John and Grace Nichols. Illustrated by Penny Dann: London: Viking, 1991. Here’s a new and very different collection of Nursery rhymes by acclaimed Caribbean poets John Agard and Grace Nichols which provides a fresh and exciting alternative to traditional collections. There are new looks at the familiar nursery rhymes, a host of entirely original rhymes, and characters, plus a bonus of Caribbean ones drawn from the poets’ own childhood memories. Imaginative, accessible, warm and always appealing in its images and rhymes, No Hickory, no Dickory, no Dock is an essential and captivating addition to every young bookshelf.


UPPER ELEMENTARY READING

Brown Girl in the Ring: an anthology of song games from the Eastern Caribbean. Collected and documented by Alan Lomax, J.D. Elder and Bess Lomax Hawes: New York: Pantheon Book, Random House, c 1997. Together with J.D. Elder, cultural activist, award winning author Alan Lomax has collected sixty-eight children’s song games – the music, the lyrics, and the stories behind them – from countries throughout the Eastern Caribbean. Also included are personal essays that detail Lomax’s experiences while recording the music and Elder’s encounters with the traditions upon which the songs are based.
Ears and Tails and Common Sense: More Stories from the Caribbean


Those Who Ate the Cascadura. By Dyand, W.B. D’Abadie: Green Tree Press, c 1996. This book introduces children to various people who have settled in Trinidad and Tobago, and the Caribbean over the past one thousand years. This history is told from the point of view of a captured cascadoo fish, an endangered species native to the region.

Voice in the wind by Jean D’Costa, Trinidad: Longman Caribbean, 1978
When seafaring Uncle Simmon Peter returns home on leave, he gives Annabell, Peter and Dennis momento’s – a compass, a watch and a pair of binoculars. The children soon find that these gifts take on an unusual significance one their uncle returns to his ship and to the dangers of life at sea in World War II.

MIDDLE SCHOOL READING

A Wave In Her Pocket: Stories from Trinidad by Lynn Joseph New York: Clarion Books, 1991. Stories from this book are narrated through "Tantie". "Some are funny, some are tender and some are too scary to hear in the dark".

Madame Teteron and The Dragon & Other Stories: Caribbean Stories for children. Illustrations by Winston Cumberbatch: St Ann’s: Trinidad: W U T T, 1994. Published by the Writers Union of Trinidad and Tobago this collection of short stories contain adaptations of Trinidad folklore. Read about Papa Bois in the Dragon’s mouth, poui trees, the La Diablesse, the lagahoo, local superstition and just plain ol’ boy days of pitching marbles.

The Coming of Lights by Ramsamooj V. Gosine, Yorkshire: Peepal Tree Books, 1992. Set in two villages in Trinidad, one in a flat sugar-growing area the other in a cocoa-growing area in the hills. This is a sensitive account of the paraplegic orphan Balwant, his courage and friendship amidst the failings of adults in his life.

The Magical Mystical Ibis by Julie Morton, Port of Spain Trinidad, West Indies: Morton Salvatori Publishing Ltd., 1991. The magic and mystery that surround the beautiful Scarlet Ibis…Feel their joys…and fear, in this land they have learned to love and must leave.
Chapter 14 - The Tabla from India

PRIMARY READING

A Journey to Paradise by Anne Siberell, Holt, 1990. A gardener and his pet monkey take a trip to paradise.


Monsoon by Uma Krishnaswami, illustrated by Jamel Akib (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2003). Deeply sensory, this book takes readers to Northern India. The details are storytelling, somehow familiar, bringing each moment alive, the ache and eagerness for the rains. Feel the dust, taste the mangoes, play hopscotch, dance in the rain. Akib's soft, expressive art is a perfect compliment to Krishnaswami's evocative text.


To the Top; Climbing the World's Highest Mountain by Sydelle Kramer, Random House, 1993.

UPPER ELEMENTARY READING


Homeless Bird. By Gloria Whelan,. HarperCollins, 2000. When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.


Sacred River by Ted Lewin, Clarion, 1995. (Text and illustrations create a luminous vision of the Ganges River at Benares, holy goal of Hindu pilgrims.)


The Ocean of Story; Fairy Tales from India Caroline, Ness & Neil Philip, comp. Illustrated by Jacqueline Mair. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1996.
Roots of Rhythm • Recommended Reading


The Rajah's Rice; A Mathematical Folktale from India by David Barry, Illustrated by Donna Perrone. Scientific American Books for Young Readers, 1994. Illustrates mathematical concept of what happens when the amount of rice grains is continually Retellings from the Jataka tales of the rebirths of Buddha.


The Stonecutter; An Indian Folktale by Patricia Newton. Putnam, 1990. A stonecutter finds he is truly happy just being himself.


MIDDLE SCHOOL READING

Motherland. By Vineet Vijayaraghavan, pa. Soho Press, 2002. 2002 Alex Award Winner. A fifteen-year-old American teenager spends the summer with her relatives in southern India and gains new insight into her past, her family and her heritage.
ALL AGES READING

American teachers have at their fingertips an enormous body of literature from which to choose titles that would compliment a lesson in American music featuring the turntable. For this reason, specific reading resources are not given here except to mention a few books with resources that emphasize African-American poetry.


It Is The Wind by Ferida Wolff, illustrated by James Ransome (HarperCollins, 2005). What has caused the noise in the night? Is it the owl, the gate, the swing? What is it, really? In perfect poetry, a young boy in his farmhouse bedroom wonders, worries, and then sleeps reassured. African American.

Wonderful Words: POEMS ABOUT READING, WRITING, SPEAKING, AND LISTENING selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Karen Barbour (Simon & Schuster, 2004). A collection of poems that captures the wonder of language in a decidedly multicultural landscape.
Chapter 16 - The Daf from Iraq

FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS


A Family from Iraq by John King. Austin, TX: Raintree/ Steck-Vaughn, 1997. Chronicles the daily activities of a family in Iraq and discusses the differences between older and younger generations. Ages 8-10.


FOR OLDER STUDENTS


The Kurds (Creation of the Modern Middle East), by Heather Lehr Wagner. Chelsea House Publications, 2002. 12+


FOLKTALES


