

Realia Ideas from the Sunshine Books

Create a display using related realia item and statements about events or people in each book. The statements can be typed or hand-lettered, laminated on construction paper or poster board and displayed with the matching realia item. You might consider hanging the laminated statement and realia item above your Sunshine book display.

You can use the realia item and corresponding statements in two ways:

- The entire statement can be placed on display for reading motivation.
- The clue can be used without mentioning the book's title. This could then become a contest (*i.e.*, Mystery Object Contest) as students are asked to identify which book matches the clue and realia item. The clue and the realia item should be numbered and should correspond to a numbered contest entry slip.

Book: *The Beastly Arms*

Item: Pet food

Statement: How does Nickel's pet help him and his mom find a new apartment? Read *The Beastly Arms* to find out.

Book: *The City of Ember*

Item: Lightbulb

Statement: What if this was the last lightbulb that existed in a world of darkness? Read about what happens to the *City of Ember* when the electricity threatens to run out.

Book: *Esperanza Rising*

Item: Broom

Statement: How could someone NOT know how to use a broom? Read *Esperanza Rising* to find the answer to this question.

Book: *Fever 1793*

Item: Medical thermometer

Statement: What medical treatments were used in Philadelphia's tragic events of 1793? Find the answer to this question by reading *Fever 1793*.

Book: *Flight to Freedom*

Item: Diary

Statement: "Here we are, you and I alone together. Forever. Or until these pages are filled with my handwriting." Read Yara's first hand account of her flight to freedom.

Book: *Flipped*

Item: Carton of eggs.

Statement: Can these eggs get your true love's attention or will they make him sick? Get *Flipped* and find out!

Book: *The Gadget*

Item: Thick sunglasses

Statement: Why did Dr. Soifer insist Stephen keep the sunglasses by telling him, "You keep them. You need them." Read *The Gadget* to find out why.

Book: *The Ghost Sitter*

Item: Handwritten note

Statement: How can a note connect a ghost with her long-lost sister? Solve this eerie mystery by reading the haunting story of *The Ghost Sitter*.

Book: *Rising Water*

Item: Milk jug

Statement: Kevin turns a milk jug into another useful item? Why? What does he do with it? Read *Rising Water* to find the answers to these questions.

Book: *Skeleton Man*

Item: Model of skeleton or several bones

Statement: The legend is that this man cooked and ate himself, bit by bit... but he's still hungry. Run to the library to find out how you can escape the *Skeleton Man*.

Book: *Stand Tall*

Item: Basketball

Statement: How can the tallest boy in the seventh grade NOT be good at basketball? Read *Stand Tall* to find the answer to this question and to discover how ballroom dancing helped.

Book: *Surviving the Applewhites*

Item: Earrings

Statement: How many earrings can one boy fit on an ear? Jake makes quite a statement with his earrings. Read all about it in *Surviving the Applewhites*.

Book: *The Tale of Despereaux*

Item: Thimble

Statement: How could a thimble bring hundreds of mice together? Read how and why in *The Tale of Despereaux*.

Book: *Trouble Don't Last*

Item: Skillet, onion slices, worn green blanket and striped blanket, gray yarn

Statement: A journey on the underground railroad could be filled with hunger and danger. Read about the journey of Harrison and Samuel in *Trouble Don't Last*.

Book: *Undercurrents*

Item: Knife

Statement: "The knife was still there, dropped in the middle of the living room, covered with...."
Whoa – what was it covered with? Who dropped it? Why is Crystal so afraid to return to the house she has inherited? Find the answers in *Undercurrents*.