

Realia Ideas from the Sunshine Books

Create a display using a realia item and statement relating to 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 (statement) 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: *Al Capone Does My Shirts*

Item: A Button-up Shirt, with a pocket, on a hanger – In the pocket, place a torn scrap of brown paper with the word “done” scribbled hastily in pencil and underlined twice.

Statement: (Have scrap of paper sticking out of the pocket.) “Done.” What could this message mean? It could mean almost anything. But when Moose Flannagan, the owner of the shirt, finds this message in his pocket, he knows it has a special meaning because “*Al Capone Does My Shirts*”.

Book: *Chasing Vermeer*

Item: Copy of Vermeer’s *Lady Writing a Letter* (Pictures of the painting are available on the Internet.)

Statement: Have you ever had to solve a mystery in order to help a friend or family member? When the famous painting *Lady Writing a Letter* is stolen, sixth graders Calder and Petra suspect some people very close to them are involved. Follow the clever clues with them in *Chasing Vermeer*.

Book: *Escaping the Giant Wave*

Item: Warning Sign

Statement: Kyle reads a warning sign on the beach, but does he pay attention to what the sign says? Read *Escaping the Giant Wave* to see if Kyle remembers and heeds the warning.

Book: *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*

Item: Soup Pot and Stirring Spoon

Statement: Rosie and Bailey are best friends. They have been best friends their whole lives. But something happens to make Rosie so angry at Bailey that she says she hates him. However, Rosie remembers what’s important about love, life, and friendship when *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*.

Book: *Gregor the Overlander*

Item: Flashlight

Statement: Why were batteries and flashlights so important to Gregor and the Underlanders? Find the answer to this question in *Gregor the Overlander*.

Book: *Halfway to the Sky*

Item: Hiking Backpack

Statement: Can everything you need for a year fit into this one backpack? Dani knows it will have to since it is all she will be able to take with her when she runs away from home to hike the Appalachian Trail. Find out how far she makes it in *Halfway to the Sky*.

Book: *Heir Apparent*

Item: Pewter Ring with Celtic Knot Insignia

Statement: “You’re saying that when I give the ring to someone that person has to accept it, and that he or she *has* to do whatever I command?” Read *Heir Apparent* to find out the importance of the ring and what happens next.

Book: *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*

Item: Stuffed Chihuahua

Statement: Are **you** doomed to be attacked by a pack of wild Chihuahuas? Read *How to Disappear Completely and Never be Found* and pay attention to Margaret’s oral report on animal attacks!

Book: *Never Mind!*

Item: Monopoly Game Pieces, Microphone, A Trophy

Statement: What does playing *Monopoly* have to do with getting to know someone? Read *Never Mind!* for the answer.

Book: *Once Upon a Marigold*

Item: Colored Rock Crystals

Statement: “It’s a big cave with lots of rooms, and in each room the walls and ceilings are studded with a different kind of crystal.” Edric the troll introduces Christian to the cave in *Once Upon a Marigold*.

Book: *One True Friend*

Item: Letter in an Envelope.

Statement: Have you ever had a pen pal? Doris and Amir have been pen pals since Amir left Doris’s neighborhood. Even though they are separated by many miles, see how their friendship and letters help both of them make it through a very tough summer.

Book: *Sahara Special*

Item: Journal

Statement: Miss Pointy passes out thick composition books with black-and white marbled covers. Peek into them to discover the conversations between Miss Pointy and her students in *Sahara Special*.

Book: *The Unseen*

Items: White Feather, Small Bag of Old Clothes, Stuffed Animals, Golf Ball

Statement: How could a small white feather cause happiness and then fear? Read *The Unseen* to find out.

Book: *When My Name was Keoko*

Items: Korean flag, Yellow Rubber Ball, Pressed Rose-of-Sharon Blossom, Diary

Statement: Why was the Korean flag banned? What is the importance of the Rose-of-Sharon tree? Read *When My Name Was Keoko* to find out all the answers.

Book: *The Young Man and the Sea*

Items: Oars

Statement: When Samuel is bringing his catch back to shore, why does he have to use these instead of the motor on his boat? Read *The Young Man and the Sea* to find out.