

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: *Becoming Naomi León*

Item: Bar of white soap and a paper clip

Statement: What can you do with a bar of white soap and a paperclip? Find out how it helps Naomi find her father and better understand herself in *Becoming Naomi León*.

Book: *The Boy Who Spoke Dog*

Item: Rusted metal box with lid

Statement: Sage, a wise, old sheep dog, leads Jack to a rusted metal box containing items that will help Jack survive on the island. Find out what these objects are and how Jack becomes *The Boy Who Spoke Dog*.

Book: *Chasing the Falconers*

Item: Toy cows, miniature mountain bikes, photographs, bottle caps, cigar box, penny, toy soldiers, amethyst crystals, maps, or motel key

Statement: Aiden and Meg Falconer must prove their parents' innocence or the couple will be facing life in prison, but first, they must find a way to escape the juvenile detention center where they have been placed. Find out who is chasing the Falconers and how they use their wits to make it across the country, facing many challenges along the way.

Book: *Cryptid Hunters*

Item: Stuffed toy monkey

Statement: Grace O'Hara always carries an old worn stuffed toy monkey. Why would a beautiful and intelligent twelve year old still carry a baby's toy? Read *Cryptid Hunters* to see if this odd toy helps solve Grace's true identity!

Book: *Double Dutch*

Item: Jump ropes

Statement: Delia was glad she had Double Dutch on Saturday. It took her mind off the threats of tests, twins, and worries about reading and homework. Find out how Delia's reading problems affect the lives of her friends in *Double Dutch*.

Book: *Flush*

Item: Letters, Flashlight, *Lemony Snicket* book, Bug spray, Food dye, Chess book, Chess board and pieces, Two quarters, Penny, and Grip tape

Statement: "Shelly levered herself upright. 'This idea of yours is so whacked,' she said, 'It just might work. Does that mean you'll help us? And all I gotta do is flush?' she asked. 'That's it? That's all you've got to do,' I said. 'Flush, and flush often.'" Read *Flush* to find out more about this fantastic plan!

Book: *Gilda Joyce: Psychic Investigator*

Item: Flashlight

Statement: “They entered a small circular room and waved their flashlights around. When their eyes had adjusted to the dim light, both girls screamed.” Find out why this happened in *Gilda Joyce: Psychic Detective*.

Book: *Lily's Ghosts*

Item: Kewpie doll, Old newspapers, Treasure chest

Statement: Her mother’s old Kewpie doll seems to follow Lily around the house. Find out why Uncle Max knows the doll is so important in *Lily’s Ghosts*.

Book: *May Bird and the Ever After*

Item: Pumpkin (carved face) – white, not orange, or pale yellow if possible

Statement: How does a “house spirit” suffer an asthma attack? Find out how un-scary some ghosts can be in *May Bird and the Ever After*.

Book: *Overboard*

Item: Life vest

Statement: Isman got a life vest, but Emily did not. Find out why when you read *Overboard*.

Book: *Peter and the Starcatchers*

Item: Stuffed crocodile

Statement: Why should you be afraid of this animal’s grim grin? Sacrifice some time for *Peter and the Starcatchers* and you’ll know why that smile’s so scary!

Book: *Quake! Disaster in San Francisco, 1906*

Item: Blanket, Old newspaper, Tent

Statement: It took less than a minute for Jacob’s life to change forever. Read *Quake! Disaster in San Francisco, 1906* to find out how Jason survives the worst earthquake ever recorded in the United States.

Book: *The Return of Gabriel*

Item: Movie theatre tickets

Statement: In 1964, life in a small Mississippi town could be difficult for some of its citizens. Read *The Return of Gabriel* to find out what problems Alvina, Esther, Johnny, and others encounter when they try to enter the front door of the movie theatre.

Book: *The Revealers*

Item: Copy of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Sock with toe filled with marbles, Empty root beer bottle, examples of folded notes that students exchange

Statement: Russell Trainor learns that students who isolate themselves for whatever reason may become the targets of bullies. Read *The Revealers* to find out why.

Book: *Truesight*

Item: Metal cylinder, Can of pears, Music box, Gold or silver pin

Statement: When Jacob regains his sight, life abruptly changes for him. He begins to understand or “see” aspects of the world that he did not have access to when he did not have his sight. Find out what those changes are by reading *Truesight* by David Stahler.