

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.

A Bear Named Trouble

Item: Stuffed brown bear and a stuffed white goose

Statement: Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you were a bear? How about a noisy goose? Ten year old Jonathan loves animals so much that he even pretends to be inside the animal. Read *A Bear Named Trouble* to find out how much trouble ensues when a bear breaks INTO the zoo.

Cabin on Trouble Creek

Item: Cornmeal

Statement: Imagine that the only food you have to eat is cornmeal. How long do you think you could survive eating primarily cornmeal? Find out how Daniel and Will survive several months eating cornmeal and food they scavenged in the woods. Read *Cabin on Trouble Creek* by Jean Van Leeuwen.

Item: Leaves

Statement: How long could you tolerate sleeping on the ground with nothing but leaves and a blanket? Find out how Daniel and Will survived in their wilderness cabin. Read *Cabin on Trouble Creek* by Jean Van Leeuwen.

Christopher Mouse: the Tale of a Small Mouse

Item: Stuffed (or real) white mouse

Statement: Have you ever wanted a white mouse for a pet? Have you ever wondered if a white mouse wants to be a pet? To see life from a white mouse's point of view, read *Christopher Mouse: The Story of a Small Traveler*.

Drita, My Homegirl

Item: Basketball

Statement: Who would have thought a basketball would help Drita find a friend? Read *Drita, My Homegirl* to find out how a basketball bridged the gap between New York and Kosova.

Fame and Glory in Freedom, Georgia

Item: English dictionary

Statement: "Miss Delphine yanked the screen door open and disappeared inside. Then she marched back out and dropped a big, heavy book in my lap – *Oxford American Dictionary*. Why is the dictionary important in the book, *Fame and Glory in Freedom, Georgia* and will it help Bird achieve her goals?

Item: Eyeglasses

Statement: If you had a kid who needed eyeglasses and you didn't have any money, what would you do? Find out who needs eyeglasses and how they discover they need glasses in *Fame and Glory in Freedom, Georgia*.

A House of Tailors

Item: Sewing pattern, thimble, needles, pins, thread; examples of embroidery

Statement: If you were a tailor, what tools would you use? To find out how Dina thinks she is escaping the life of a tailor but finds herself a tailor once more, read *A House of Tailors* by Patricia Reilly Giff.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

Item: China rabbit

Statement: "Once in a house on Egypt Street, there lived a rabbit who was made almost entirely of china." Read about Edward's extraordinary journey in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*.

Item: Harmonica

Statement: "And then came another song, the hum of a harmonica." Find out why the harmonica is important to a particular character during Edward's miraculous journey.

No Dogs Allowed!

Item: Turkey bell or cow bell

Statement: "'You still have any of those turkey-bells Grandpa used to have?' Meme nodded. 'They're collector's items. Can't find the things anymore. But I think there's a few in the closet. I'll go get one.' We waited until Meme brought a small bell to her. The thing looked like one of the antique cow bells Meme kept on the mantel -- only smaller." Read *No Dogs Allowed!* to find out how these bells, turkeys, and dogs are woven together into this appealing story!

President's Daughter

Item: Classroom pet such as rabbit, macaw, rat, guinea pig or snake

Statement: Snakes, rats, macaws, guinea pigs, rabbits in the White House? At dinner! Really! What on earth is going on? Read *The President's Daughter* to find out why and when this really happened to Ethel.

Project Mulberry

Item: Embroidery sample or quilt

Statement: "I kept thinking while I was embroidering how each of the stages had a special meaning to me." – Julia (p. 209) Find out why the embroidery takes on a special meaning in *Project Mulberry*.

Say What?

Item: Copy of *Parenting Magazine*

Statement: How does a magazine article lead to a kids-against-parents war? Read *Say What?* to find out how this crisis resolves itself!

The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs

Item: Nonfiction book on the Seven Wonders of the World

Statement: How many Wonders can you find in your town? Read about Eben's search (before you start your own) in *The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs!*

Whittington

Item: Magnetic letters and a small tray with sand

Statement: "Ben stared openmouthed. Somebody else had his problem. Someone knew how to fix it." Read *Whittington* to find out how these objects can help Ben.

Wildfire!

Item: Sack of peanuts, fireworks, sparklers, coke bottle, stuffed dog

Statement: Do you enjoy the Fourth of July? Read *Wildfire!* to find out about a Fourth of July that Ben will never forget.

Worth

Item: A book of Greek myths

Statement: "'You've been listening?' As Nate reads the book of myths to John through the bedroom wall, he wonders if this 'just might be the start of something good.'" Could the wonderful stories of Greek heroes be what brings these two enemies together? Read *Worth* and find out!