

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.

The Anybodies

Item: Fake bat and marbles

Statement: In the book *The Anybodies* by N. E. Bode, one of the first clues that Fern is someone extraordinary happens when she sees a bat turn into a marble. Read *The Anybodies* and find out why she denies that it happened and does not express shock or try to explain it (p. 63).

Chicken Boy

Item: Checkerboard

Statement: Henry brought one to play during lunch and made their table the center of attention.

Item: NASCAR trading cards

Statement: Tobin's dad loves to watch stock car racing and thinks the cards will be valuable some day.

Item: *National Geographic* magazine

Statement: Mr. Paulsen always read one of these while waiting for Tobin's family therapy sessions. Then he would give it to Tobin.

Code Orange

Item: Scabs (These can be small, well-cooked, crumbly pieces of bacon or even *Bacon Bits* salad garnishes) kept in a plastic baggie or in a clear, plastic case

Statement: Will these scabs cause the death of millions? Find out how one kid's biology research project could infect the world. Read *Code Orange* by Caroline B. Cooney.

Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie

Item: Drum sticks

Statement: Can drum sticks help you cope when your world is turned upside down? Read *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick and find out.

Gossamer

Item: Seashells, sweater with buttons, a chrysalis, and a photograph of a soldier in uniform

Statement: How does touching these objects cause someone to have pleasant dreams? Read *Gossamer* to find out why these objects are important to John and the woman.

Heat

Item: Yankee Stadium memorabilia, Yankee Stadium map

Statement: "Michael took a deep breath. Like he did sometimes before he delivered the next pitch. Then he walked down the runway and up the dugout steps and the next thing he saw was all the blue of Yankee Stadium, and grass, an ocean of green grass, greener than anything he had ever seen in his life." Michael Arroyo's dream comes true in *Heat* when he and his Little League team get to play ball in Yankee Stadium. Read *Heat* to see how this dream becomes a reality.

House of the Red Fish

Item: An old car tire inner tube

Statement: “The tennis ball had given me the idea of using trapped air to lift the boat off the bottom of the canal—holding the ball underwater, letting it pop back up. Bingo, I thought—inner tubes from old car tires! How many would it take?” Read all about how Tomi gets a great idea to help him raise his father’s fishing boat from the bottom of the canal where it was sunk after Pearl Harbor in *House of the Red Fish*.

Jackie’s Wild Seattle

Item: Animal carrier or backpack.

Statement: “In glided Cody with the carrier, the door already open. ‘He’s a friend, he’s a friend,’ I whispered. ‘He’s bringing you a little den to crawl into.’” In *Jackie’s Wild Seattle*, Shannon helps to rescue a coyote trapped in an elevator, using a small animal carrier. Find out how she does this and other exciting rescues in *Jackie’s Wild Seattle*.

The Lightning Thief

Item: Ball point pen

Statement: What would you do with an ordinary looking ball point pen? If you were Percy Jackson, it might be the only thing between you and mythological monsters who think you are the *Lightning Thief*.

Listening for Lions

Item: Stethoscope

Statement: Rachel’s father was a doctor. Find out how this influences Rachel’s future life in *Listening for Lions*.

The Old Willis Place

Item: Diary

Statement: “‘Lissa writes, too,’ he said, ‘in a little book.’ ‘Her diary, probably,’ I guessed.” (p. 35 HB) Read about Lissa and her new friend in *The Old Willis Place*.

Item: Teddy bear

Statement: “Bending over Lissa, he carefully lifted the teddy bear lying beside her head and cradled it in his arms.” (p. 30 HB) Find out why this teddy bear is so important by reading *The Old Willis Place*.

Princess Academy

Item: Pieces of stone and rocks of different shapes, sizes, and colors

Statement: The people of the village quarry a stone called linder. What kind of real stone do you think this might resemble? The quarry is the way of life for the people of Mount Eskel. Read *Princess Academy* to see how linder and the quarry dominate village life and influence the girls at the Academy.

The Ravenmaster’s Secret

Item: A spyglass (an inexpensive one can be purchased at a toy store)

Statement: “But moisture had gotten into the lens and turned it so cloudy, it was impossible to really see anything through it. In the *Ravenmaster’s Secret*, Forrest uses the spyglass to help him imagine great adventures away from the tower, but he ends up having a dangerous adventure within the Tower walls.

Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083

Item: Television set

Statement: In the future education will be distributed through television programming. Find out how viewer ratings drive the programming decisions of the Department of Entertainment. Read about the exciting reality show in *Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083*.

Under the Same Sky

Item: Catalog of motorbikes

Statement: Wouldn’t you like a motorbike for your 14th birthday? Joe does. Read *Under the Same Sky* to discover what Joe has to do to earn his birthday present.

Item: Large stuffed panda

Statement: Have you ever won a stuffed animal at a fair or an amusement park? Read *Under the Same Sky* to find out if Joe wins and even more important, what he does with the prize.