

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.

Adam Canfield of the Slash

Items: Newspaper, Mashed potato box, Note pad, Pens, Camera, Plastic black and white cow, Nerf size basketball goal that clips on a trash can

Statement: Adam and Jennifer are co-editors of the *Slash*. Follow their adventures in this humorous, engaging contemporary tale.

Black Duck

Item: Dollar bill torn in half

Statement: What would you do if you found this torn bill on a dead body? Help Ruben solve the mystery in the *Black Duck*.

Eggs

Item: Half-dozen carton of eggs decorated like Easter eggs

Statement: Trying to avoid his grandmother, David Limpert goes on an Easter egg hunt, and finds something much more interesting than eggs. Read *Eggs* to find out what happens.

The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp

Item: Toy sword (*Excalibur*)

Statement: Alfred Kropp joins the quest to return *Excalibur* to its master. Read *The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp* to find out if the quest was successful!

Hurt Go Happy

Items: Mushrooms of various varieties

Statement: In *Hurt Go Happy*, Joey's life is changed when she goes mushroom-hunting and has a chance meeting with an elderly man and his baby chimpanzee. Read this fascinating story to see what happens.

Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life

Items: Keys (box optional) or playing cards

Statement: Keys and playing cards are a huge part of the lives of the two main characters, Jeremy and Lizzy, and keys also factor into the climax of the book. Read *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* to find out why these keys are so important. (As a follow-up activity to reading the book, have a group of students hide keys around the library media center with clues as part of a scavenger hunt. Extra keys or cards could be included in the activity as decoys.)

Kimchi & Calamari

Items: Chopsticks and forks

Statement: Joseph's birth heritage is Korean, but he was adopted by an Italian-American family. Read *Kimchi & Calamari* to find out how Joseph finally comes to terms with his unique and complicated identity and family.

The Kingdom Keepers

Items: Pirate hat and/or Mickey Mouse ears

Statement: Four Orlando middle school students think their dreams have come true when each is selected to become the first holographic hosts of the Magic Kingdom! Those dreams, however, quickly turn into nightmares as they battle pirates and other evils. They eventually learn the true reason they were selected and the dangerous mission they must complete. Read the *Kingdom Keepers* to discover the secrets of the Magic Kingdom when the guests go home and the lights go out!

Out of Patience

Items: A toilet plunger (cursed, play a game of hot potato with it and trivia), a toilet seat made of wood or material

Statement: The Plunger of Destiny returned to Patience, Kansas, bringing with it the potential doom of the city and its occupants, but also the potential for a more pleasant smelling future. It also was the very first plunger used to unclog a water closet (AKA toilet). Brian Meehl's *Out of Patience* is a true example of potty humor and a complicated tale of a curse reminiscent of Louis Sachar's *Holes*, with a strong main character in Jake, and strong complementary characters in Siri and Howie as well as his father Jim. Read *Out of Patience* to learn about this curious tale.

Peak

Item: Climbing equipment, tent, blue spray paint can, yellow prayer flag with a blue mountain

Statement: Fourteen year old Peak gets the opportunity of a lifetime to become the youngest person to get to the top of Mount Everest or die trying in the action packed thriller *Peak* by Roland Smith.

Red Kayak

Items: Plastic blue crab (available at party store or dollar stores), toy ambulance, plastic toy drill, butterflies or butterfly poster, magazine picture of a little girl a few months old

Statement: Responsibility, courage, and trustworthiness are all words that describe Brady, but he must earn those characteristics through a lot of soul searching. Read the *Red Kayak* to learn about Brady's journey to manhood.

Rules

Items: Yellow rubber duck, audiocassette or videotape, sketchbook and colored pencils

Statement: "Sometimes people laugh when they like you. But sometimes people laugh to hurt you." "No toys in the fish tank." "Flush!" These are some of the "Rules for David." Read *Rules* to find out why Catherine has to write them down for her brother.

The Sacrifice

Item: Large oversized keys for a jail cell

Statement: These keys symbolize the prison cell that Abigail and her sister, Dorothy, shared. Discover why Abigail was falsely accused by reading *The Sacrifice*.

Shakespeare's Secret

Items: A copy of *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare and a dimestore necklace preferably with a big "diamond" pendant

Statement: It's bad enough being shy and new at school. But with a funny first name and a cute older sister, Hero Netherfeld can't believe it when Danny Cordova, the most popular boy in the eighth grade, becomes her friend and ally in solving the mystery that surrounds her new house. As Hero, Danny, and neighbor Mrs. Roth look for clues in finding a priceless diamond belonging to Anne Boleyn, queen to England's King Henry VIII, they discover connections that may shed light on a historical mystery: Who really wrote the works of William Shakespeare? And more than history is revealed as they search for the diamond. As the clues shed light on what may be Shakespeare's secret, Hero and Danny discover family secrets closer to home.

Whisper in the Dark

Item: A telephone (Cell phones included)

Statement: We are so accustomed to using telephones; they are a constant and relied upon feature of our modern life. But what if this modern device brought communication with an ancient and terrifying evil? In *Whisper in the Dark*, read how a telephone call starts Maddy on a collision course with one of her ancestor's most feared legends.