

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.

Airball: My Life in Briefs

Item: Old yearbooks (p. 40 PB)

Statement: "We snagged library passes during Social Studies the next day and combed through shelves of dusty yearbooks till we found the two from when Brett McGrew was in middle school." Kirby uses old yearbooks to look at his school's history. Join Kirby and his friends in their search by reading *Airball: My Life in Briefs*.

All the Lovely Bad Ones

Items: Family tree, Metal box, Flashlight, Stuffed bear, Stone

Statement: Sometimes a joke is not funny. Unfortunately Cory and Travis find this out too late. Read *All the Lovely Bad Ones* to find out who is not happy about their latest prank in this chilling story of truths and consequences.

Dragon Slippers

Items: Blue slippers, Embroidered handkerchief

Statement: Creel was taught to sew exquisite embroidery by her mother. This talent comes in very handy as Creel tries to support herself after leaving her home. During her travels, Creel meets several dragons and is given a pair of beautiful blue slippers. Find out the secret of the blue slippers and join Creel and Luka in their adventures in *Dragon Slippers*.

The Entertainer and the Dybbuk

Item: Ventriloquist's dummy or similar puppet (can be homemade)

Statement: "He'd carved the comic face in a prisoner-of-war camp in Poland." The Great Freddie is a bad ventriloquist until he gets possessed and the dybbuk has an audience to begin resolving issues from his former life in *The Entertainer and the Dybbuk*.

First Light

Items: Red notebook, Furs, Locket, Toy Volkswagen, Seven red bracelets

Statement: "What if this isn't a map of the settlement at all? What if it's a map of the tunnel?" What if? Read *First Light* to find out what the relationship between Peter and Thea is in spite of their two different worlds. Is there a tunnel or not?

Found

Items: Small airplane, FBI badge, and/or a letter with "YOU ARE ONE OF THE MISSING"

Statement: Jonah has always known that he was adopted and he's never thought it was a big deal until he received a mysterious letter saying, "You are one of the missing." Read *Found* to find out if Jonah and Chip discover why the FBI is involved in their adoption.

Gabriel's Horses

Items: Picture or small bust of Abraham Lincoln, Map or book on Kentucky, Bag of glass marbles, Horse grooming comb (or a halter or rein) (borrowed from a tack shop)

Statement: “Freedom, honor, dreams, and duty, always seeing horses’ beauty. With prayer and courage, Gabriel stood, as war came marching on.” Kentucky was his home, horses his life. Will the slave boy save *Gabriel’s Horses*?

Go Big or Go Home

Item: Rock that resembles description of Fred in the novel

Statement: The unexpected arrival of a rock from outer space changes Brady’s life and eventually makes his worst nightmare come true. Read about his adventures in *Go Big or Go Home*.

Hot, Sour, Salty, Sweet

Items: Graduation cap and gown, Pots and pans of any type, Wok, Sign and streamers, Red envelope

Statement: In *Hot, Sour, Salty, Sweet*, Ana discovers that while having a multicultural family can be challenging it is also what makes her family uniquely hers. Read to find out how Ana helps to blend this family together.

Into the Wild

Items: Magic wand, Key

Statement: Julie ventures into the Wild to save her mother, grandmother, and brother. She uses a special key and a magic wand in this fast-paced fractured fairy tale. Read about Julie and the other fairy tale characters in *Into the Wild*.

La Línea

Items: Mexican Flag, Canteen, Gold medallion, Freight train model

Statement: Imagine you are separated from your parents by hundreds of miles, imagine you must illegally enter a foreign country. Imagine your younger sister foils your plans by tagging along with you! Now your very lives are at stake! These are the events that face Miguel and Elena as they attempt to leave their Mexico homeland for America. Follow their thrilling and suspenseful journey when you read *La Línea* by Ann Jaramillo.

The Misadventures of Maude March

Items: Quilt, Pocket compass, Saddle blanket, Potato peeler

Statement: “...it would be another hour or two at least before I knew for sure what direction we were headed in, I had to get a look at my compass.” Read about where Maude and Sallie are going and what they are getting themselves into in *The Misadventures of Maude March*.

Runaway

Item: Writing journal

Statement: In *Runaway*, Holly uses the journal given to her by a teacher to keep a diary of her life on the road. Read *Runaway* to follow Holly’s life story.

Item: Plastic garbage bag

Statement: Holly believes that a plastic garbage bag is the one essential item she needs when she runs away. Find out why by reading *Runaway*.

Schooled

Items: Tie-dyed clothes, Peace signs, School bus (picture or toy), Pretend checks

Statement: As if middle school isn’t scary enough, Capricorn Anderson has to learn to figure out not only middle school, but also the 21st century. See how Cap learns to navigate the world of middle school after being raised on a 60’s inspired compound his whole life in *Schooled* by Gordon Korman.

Wing Nut

Item: Toy red Corvette car

Statement: Grady received a toy Corvette car painted bright candy-apple red from his father shortly before his dad dies. Since then, Grady and his mom have traveled from one town to the other looking for work and a place to live. Follow their journey to find a new home in *Wing Nut* by Mary Jane Auch.