

# 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 posted 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 (e.g., 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.

## ***Billy Creekmore***

Item: blue beads and postcards

Statement: These two items are all Billy carries with him as he moves from place to place as they are the items that belonged to his parents.

## ***The Boy Who Dared***

Old-fashioned radio

Statement: Helmut learns the truth of the war through listening to a black market radio.

Old-fashioned typewriter

Statement: In *The Boy Who Dared*, Helmut composes anti-Nazi leaflets on a typewriter.

## ***Changeling***

Item: Map of Central Park and surrounding area.

Statement: Neef has never left the magical world of Central Park until she must venture out to complete a quest to save her life.

## ***Diamonds in the Shadow***

Item: Two small gray cardboard cartons with gray ashes inside.

Statement: How could two small cardboard boxes be important? Read [Diamonds in the Shadow](#) by Caroline B. Cooney and discover the surprises that await inside two common cardboard boxes.

## ***Do Not Pass GO***

Item: Book of quotations

Statement: “Then he looked up “prison” in the quotation book. There was nothing there, or under “jail” so he looked under “crime.” There were two quotations. *Poverty is the mother or crime.* – Marcus Aurelius and *If poverty is the mother of crimes, want of sense is the father of them.* –Jean De La Bruyere.” Why is Deet looking up these quotes? Read *Do Not Pass Go* to find out what this means for him and for his family.

## ***Football Hero***

Items: Football, helmet, cleats, toilet brush, bucket

Statement: In *Football Hero*, Ty has to work in his uncle’s cleaning company until he finds a way to take some time off to play football for his middle school.

Item: Pillowcase

Statement: Ty has to carry his books around in a pillowcase because his aunt won’t buy him a book bag.

## ***The Great Wide Sea***

Item: Anything that has to do with sailing, toy cars, blanket, telescope

Statement: In *The Great Wide Sea* the three boys all have very different interests. One of the boys is interested in astronomy and uses a telescope a great deal before they leave on their journey; he is also the one who is in charge of navigation while on the sailboat. The youngest boy still carries a blanket and plays with toy cars. Read *The Great Wide Sea* to see if this family can stay together in spite of their differences.

## ***I,Q: Independence Hall***

Item: Sunglasses

Statement: Angela always wears sunglasses so she can observe people without them knowing she is watching them.

## ***Lawn Boy***

Item: Toy lawn mower

Statement: “I never really knew my grandfather but the mower seemed tough and friendly . Maybe it was like him.” Lawn Boy thought the old riding mower was part of his late grandfather. Read *Lawn Boy* and see how a lawn mower can change lives.

## ***Lost Time***

Violin: Either a real or toy or picture.

Statement: “Only one thing was missing: her father’s violin. A handcrafted instrument, but one that was virtually worthless on the Lindos market.” Violynne must find out the hidden value of this object. Read *Lost Time* to see how she finds out about the violin, her world, and herself.

## ***The Mailbox***

Item: Electric fan

Statement: “Vernon always kept a fan going, no matter the season” The first thing Gabe noticed when he entered the house was the overturned fan in his Uncle’s study. Read *The Mailbox* to find out how a broken fan changes Gabe’s life.

## ***Mercy on These Teenage Chimps***

Item: Balloon, white gloves

Statement: “The balloon at her table wiggled free from its tape and started a slow climb toward the ceiling. Joey stripped his gloves from his hands and leaped up on the bleachers.” Read *Mercy on these Teenage Chimps* and see how Joey’s stunt puts him up a tree.

## ***The Seer of Shadows***

Item: Photo of an old fashioned camera.

Statement: Can taking a picture with this camera make a vengeful ghost appear? Read *The Seer of Shadows* to find out if a spirit can get revenge.

## ***Smiles to Go***

Items: Monopoly game, Monopoly money, chess game, skateboards, telescopes, deck of Old Maid cards, gold paper stars, *Music Man* video/DVD or *Music Man* sheet music, metal detector, atomic watch.

Statement: Every Saturday night Will, Mi-Su and BT play Monopoly; they eat the same pizza choices, Mi-Su bails BT out, BT spends wildly and still loses without a care. See how these routines define the characters and how a pesky little sister makes *Smiles to Go* a real family story.

## ***Taken***

Item: Homemade *tornado* dolls

Statement: In the book, the downtrodden residents of Mangrove give special homemade dolls to people who have done something nice for them in a symbolic gesture that they would like to see the person again. Read *Taken* to see how these gifts are given and received.

