

# 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 (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.

## ***Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It***

Items: Microscope, Journal, Gems

Statement: Brendan is a curious scientist who loves to conduct experiments. During a trip to the mall, he encounters a new intriguing subject to study. Will studying this subject present him with life changing results? Follow Brendan as he completes his experiment while uncovering his family's hidden past.

## ***A Crooked Kind of Perfect***

Items: Recording of "Forever in Blue Jeans," Roll of toilet paper, Toe socks, Tiara, Birthday cake

Statement: Have you ever seen a birthday cake with a piano on the top? Find out why Zoe called this cake, "A crooked kind of perfect."

## ***Defiance***

Items: Teapot, Old-fashioned teacup, Bicycle helmet

Statement: Toby is longing for freedom: freedom from the pain of his cancer treatments, freedom from his mother's stifling worry over his health, freedom to do everything other boys his age do. But on his third day of vacation, once he discovers the lump in his side, his freedom is already in danger. It is then that he discovers Blossom the cow, and Blossom leads him to the most unusual and important friendship of his life. What could a sick boy and a 94-year-old, almost-blind, fiercely independent poet possibly have in common? Read how Toby and Pearl show their defiance for life's unfairness as they form a true friendship, with determination, loyalty, and Blossom as their common bond.

## ***Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat***

Item: Rubber rat

Statement: Does the rat shrink or does the rat cause people to shrink? Find out the answer to this intriguing question when you read *Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat*.

## ***The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School***

Item: Copy of *Aesop Fables*

Statement: How is this book of fables going to help the new teacher work with the naughty 4<sup>th</sup> grade class no one else wanted to teach? Read *The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School* to find out.

## ***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?

## ***Highway Cats***

Items: Stuffed toy cats (including a Siamese), a Toy bulldozer, and/or Empty boxes and containers

Statement: One day bulldozers show up to build a road through the cat's woods. How did the cats stop the road from being built? Join the adventures by reading the *Highway Cats*.

### ***Igraine the Brave***

Item: Small plastic pig

Statement: What would you do if your parents magically changed themselves into pigs by mistake? Read *Igraine the Brave* to find out if Igraine can change her parents back and save her castle home.

### ***The Lemonade War***

Items: Big cooler, Lemonade mix, Cups, Wagon (Leave the fruit flies out!)

Statement: "I'm going to roll! Like the ice cream truck! I'm going to mix it all up in the big cooler and wagon it from street to street." Read *The Lemonade Wars* to find out why Evan needed to mobilize his lemonade business.

### ***Me and the Pumpkin Queen***

Items: Pumpkin seeds, Fertilizer, Seedling plant

Statement: Do you have a green thumb? Do you think you can grow an award winning pumpkin that weighs over 1,000 pounds? Find out if Mildred will be crowned queen at the Circleville Pumpkin Show by reading *Me and the Pumpkin Queen* by Marlane Kennedy.

### ***The Middle of Somewhere***

Items: United States road map and a Toy or picture of an RV

Statement: Ronnie's adventure begins with a squirrel in the toilet and her mother breaking her leg. Then grandfather (Pop) unexpectedly shows up at the house in his shiny new RV. Read how "always expect the unexpected" proves to be true as Pop, Gee, and Ronnie travel cross country to *The Middle of Somewhere*.

### ***Night of the Howling Dogs***

Items: Binoculars, Canteen, Blue inflatable raft

Statement: Dylan thinks the biggest challenge on his scout camping trip will be the local bully; however, he faces spooky Hawaiian myths, a shark, and a disaster of unearthly proportions. Read *Night of the Howling Dogs* to follow Dylan's adventures.

### ***Punished!***

Items: Dusty big reference book, Rubber bands, Camera

Statement: Logan will never speak or listen to others the same way (and neither will you) after he is *Punished!*

### ***The Puzzling World of Winston Breen***

Items: Crossword, Sudoku, or Word Find puzzle book(s) and wooden sticks (e.g., tongue depressors) with letters written on them

Statement: Winston loves puzzles – any kind of puzzle! Winston's puzzle-solving abilities are put to the test in this fast-paced treasure hunting adventure. It all starts when Winston's sister finds four sticks with letters on them hidden in her birthday present, but where will it end? Join in the puzzle-solving fun by reading *The Puzzling World of Winston Breen*.

### ***The Year of the Dog***

Items: Chinese bowl with chopsticks

Statement: Pacy is excited about the upcoming Chinese New Year. This year will be the Year of the Dog, and her mom and dad say it's a year to make friends, enjoy family, and, most of all, a year for thinking. But think about what? Well, maybe about what Pacy wants to do with her life! As Pacy races through a year that includes a new best friend, a book contest, a science fair project, and a school play, she finds that this Year of the Dog is indeed living up to its exciting promise. Read all about it in *The Year of the Dog*.