

3 Fun Read Alouds: A Presentation for New FCPS ESOL Teachers
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Grandfather's Journey, by Alan Say

What is it? This beautiful book is about the author's grandfather's story as an immigrant from Japan to the U.S. and his return to Japan.

Why I love it: It has beautiful images, especially some great pictures of parts of the United States. I love the ending – it rings very true to me that one always misses the places one is not. As someone who has lived abroad, I find sharing this book with my students is a great bonding experience for my students and me.

Content Area: Immigration

Lesson suggestions:

- Do a picture walk and talk about the landforms and landscapes in the pictures. Relate images in the book to what students know/ are learning about the geography of the United States.
- If you have lived abroad, model text to self connections as you read this book. Have students do an activity that focuses on text to self connects after reading such as a Side by side comparison (see attached).
- Another text to self connection is to use the end of the story to have students discuss with a partner who they miss. For lower level students, they can use the Read/Listen and Draw activity sheet (see attached) to draw a picture of who they miss and write something about that person.
- Use this book with higher students as a spring board for personal writing about their own experience as immigrants:
 - What part of America have you seen? How did it make you feel?
 - How do you feel about living in America?
 - Do they you about going back to their country? Why/ why not?
 - Who are the people you miss?
 - What are the things you miss?
 - Is it true that when you are in one country, you miss the other?

And more:

- A link to an activity to encourage children to ask questions before, during, and after reading using this book:
<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/lesson-plan/reading-comprehension/48618.html>

Follow the River, by Lydia Dabovich

What is it? A simple book about the journey a river makes to the sea.

Why I love it. This book is simple enough to use with literacy level students, it has great pictures, and a big book version is available from the resource library.

Content Area: World Concepts (Geography)

Lesson suggestions: I like to use this book to activate students' prior knowledge of basic geography vocabulary words (mountain, river, stream, island, etc.).

1. Picture walk. Explore the pictures in the book and ask students to describe/ name what they see in the pictures. Write the geography vocabulary on the board.
2. Read the story. I usually comment a lot on the pictures when I read this book to focus on using images and pictures to help make meaning of the text.
3. Review the vocabulary. Next, students and I go through the text and highlight the target vocabulary with highlighting tape.
4. Practice the vocabulary. Use the Follow the River Vocabulary Sheet (attached) to have students draw pictures and write their meanings. For literacy level students, the worksheet can be adapted so that students just draw a picture for each word.
5. Write our own stories. How about using PowerPoint and clip art to write Follow the Road (what landforms does the road go past) or Follow Me (which of these did you pass on your trip to America?) See attached sample.

This Land is Your Land, by Woody Guthrie, Illustrated by Kathleen Jakobsen.

What is it? The Words to the Song, with Wonderful Illustrations.

Why I love it? A Great Way to learn about American Geography and sing a famous song too! There is also a United Streaming Video based on the illustrations from this book.

Content Area: US Geography, the Great Depression

Lesson suggestions.

- Start with a recording of the song. Give each student a different picture of things that are in the song (island, forest, etc.) Have students hold up the picture they have when they hear it in the song.
- Do a picture walk with the book. Have students look for the thing they have in their picture card in the book (can they find a highway, a desert, etc.)
- Now read the book to them. This is a good book to ask questions while you are reading (because so much is happening in the pictures). It is a great opportunity to model for your students how good readers wonder and ask themselves questions while reading.

- Make a list of different geographic terms (landforms, water features, etc.) in the images and text of the book with the students on the board.
- Give students the lyrics to the song (available at <http://www.arlo.net/resources/lyrics/this-land.shtml>) with the target vocabulary deleted. Watch the United Streaming video for this book and see if students can put in the correct words.

Other ideas:

- SING! My students love to sing this song.
- Use this book as a springboard to teaching the geographic features of the United States.
- If you have a document camera in your classroom, project a page or pages from the book and ask students to write about the picture using the target vocabulary.
- Play the United Streaming clip about Woody Guthrie and the Great Depression and discuss with students the song in the context of the depression. Ask students to write lyrics to their own song about America ('This Land is for Immigrants, too'?)

More resources:

Reading Aloud – is it worth it? http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/curr213.shtml

Reading Aloud – are students ever too old? http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/curr081.shtml

New Thinking on Read Aloud

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0STR/is_8_110/ai_74826102

A long list of picture books grouped by the reading strategy they are good for teaching/ modeling:

<http://www.readinglady.com/mosaic/tools/PictureBookListforModelingStrategyInstructionfromKerry.pdf>

Class _____

Date _____

Name _____

Read/Listen and Draw

Directions:

- Read or listen to the story.
- Draw a picture.
- Write about the story.

Class _____

Date _____

Name _____

Comparing Myself and _____ #1

Me	

(Side by Side Comparison)

