

Estrellita se despide de su isla / Estrellita says Good-bye to Her Island

by **Samuel Caraballo**

A little girl named Estrellita is leaving her homeland, which is an unnamed island. As she departs in the airplane, she promises always to remember the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and feelings associated with her home.



TEACHING OVERVIEW

Illustrated in vivid colors and told with numerous descriptive words, this book lends itself to a lesson on the senses. Sights, tastes, sounds, smells, and even sensations of touch are described in the book. The book could be used in any unit on the Caribbean, the tropics, or islands. Written as poetry, there are a few metaphors. The Spanish version rhymes, but the English does not.

COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

BEFORE READING

PK-K: Introduce the five senses on the board. Provide magazines for students to cut out pictures of things they can see, touch, feel, smell, or taste, or you can cut them out ahead of time and have students sort them. On five separate posters or large pieces of butcher paper, (one for each sense) allow students to paste the cutouts. Discuss. Bring guava and mango to class and let students taste them. Tell students the book you are going to share is about an island where

guavas and mangoes grow. Then show the pictures to the children and let them describe what is happening.

Gr. 1- 3: The activities for PK-K can also be used for grades 1-3. In addition, introduce some of the new vocabulary words, many of which will be new to the students. Display the list and briefly discuss each word. Be sure students know what an island is. Locate the Caribbean area on a globe.

AS READING PROGRESSES

PK - K: Read the book aloud to the students. Paraphrase if necessary to help with comprehension. As you read, ask students if they have ever heard a rooster, heard the ocean, had a frog in their bed, or been hugged by their Grandma. Give students the opportunity

to talk about each page and tell whether it describes a sound, smell, taste, sight, or touch.

Gr. 1- 3: Read the book to the students. Tell them to listen for things that are described for each of the five senses. Name them as they are mentioned on each page.

AFTER READING

PK - K: Have students think about things they can see, touch, hear, smell, and taste in their own neighborhoods. Have students draw pictures of these things and then tell the rest of the class about them. Ask how they would feel if they could never see these things again.

Point out that Estrellita was feeling sad because she would miss all of the things she loved about her home.

Gr. 1 - 3: Do the PK - K activity. Then write a class book about things students would miss if they had to leave their neighborhood or town.

OTHER FOLLOW-UP/EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Do a study on the various Caribbean islands. Color maps and flags. Research the various plants and animals that are native to each. Make a book with a page about each island.
2. Listen to guitar music from the Caribbean. Allow students to dance to the music.
3. Have students write or talk about their grandparent and what is special about them. Paint a picture of them.
4. Allow students to share a picture they have drawn about an airplane trip they took.
5. Bring a picture of a rooster to class and have students observe and describe it.
6. Find library books about frogs and display them so students can choose one during free reading time.
7. Compare different types of frogs and their habitats.
8. Allow students to create a "fantasy island" that has all of their favorite things and activities. Older students can make a map of their make-believe island and create a flag for it.
9. Invite natives of Caribbean islands to come to the class to talk about their homelands.
10. Taste other fruits from the Caribbean and/or recipes from the region.

CONNECTING WITH THE INTERNET/TECHNOLOGY

Caribbean Islands

<http://www.caribbean.com/>

<http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/cxtoc.html>

Birds

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/birds.shtml>

Frogs

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/frog.shtml>

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/frogs/>

<http://allaboutfrogs.org/frogInd.shtml>

Tropical Fruit

<http://www.crfg.org/pubs/ff/guava.html>

<http://home.hawaii.rr.com/tropicalfruit/>

<http://www.proscitech.com.au/trop/fruit.htm>

Palm Trees

<http://www.junglemusic.net/palmgallery.htm>

VOCABULARY

accentuating	illusion
aroma	mango
beyond	marble
Caribbean	melodies
compare	native soil
dawn	restless
eternal	romping
frolicking	route
gallant	scenting
guava	swallows
humble	warble
illuminating	