

The Refugee Doll Project - Curriculum © 2019

Books and Lesson Plans (K-2)

Here I Am by Patti Kim

Gist:

- ◆ In this wordless book, the reader walks with an unnamed boy through the stages of acculturation. A Korean boy and his family land at JFK airport gawking at a myriad of disorienting signs. They cab it to a NY borough and enter an apartment dark and drab. In nostalgic reverie, Boy thinks of Korean home. In one hand, Boy's clutching a magic red seed. He looks out of window and accidentally drops seed on head of girl who is jumping rope on the sidewalk. Dropping the seed forces him to venture outside and explore his neighborhood, engage with people. Throughout his explorations, the reader sees his expression change from sad to glad. A sum of this book could be a math equation: old keepsake + new friends + time = joy in new life.

Enduring Understandings:

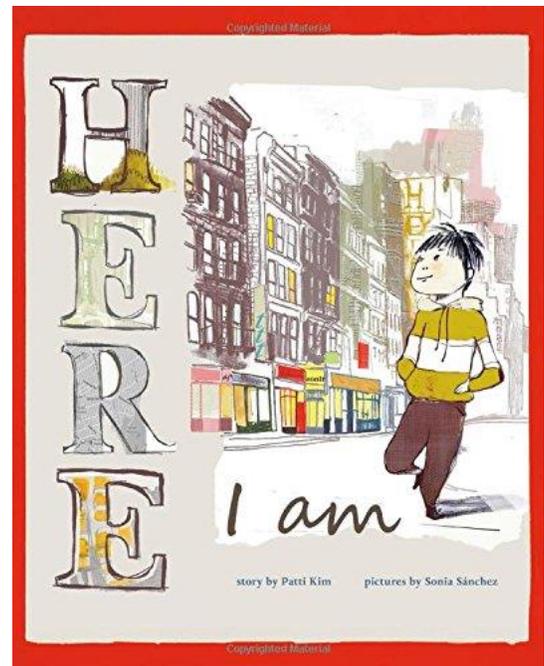
- ◆ One can make a new place feel like home.
- ◆ One can be scared and excited at the same time.
- ◆ The unfamiliar can be confusing and intimidating.
- ◆ Objects can be comforting.

Concepts:

- ◆ Beginning anew (making a new life)
- ◆ Wordless book
- ◆ The unfamiliar
- ◆ Metaphor: keepsake seed represents former life

Activities:

- ◆ Pair book with The Arrival, a wordless book for older kids.
- ◆ Teach lesson: Do activity with signs in other languages.
- ◆ Teach lesson: Ask kids to share a meaningful object with the class. Teach presentation skills.
- ◆ Teach lesson: *Refugee Week 2017: Shared Future Teaching Resource* (14-16). A suite of five, 30-minute activities. <https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/teaching-resources/refugee-week-2017-our-shared-future>
- ◆ Show film: *The Terminal*



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- ◆ Teach lesson: *A multimedia project*. Use photography/film/drawing materials to capture local neighborhoods. Analyze and ask reflective questions on the history of people/places and on the composition of the populace vis-a-vis refugees.
- ◆ Teach lesson: *A multimedia project*. Record local/environmental sounds and compose a score. (12 years plus)
- ◆ Teach lesson: *Compare and Contrast*. Use search term "Korea" in site titled *I'm Your Neighbor Books*. This is a superb online listing of refugee books categorized by theme, setting, and student age. (Grades K-12). Search under "Korea" for books to compare and contrast with *Here I Am*.
www.imyourneighborbooks.org