

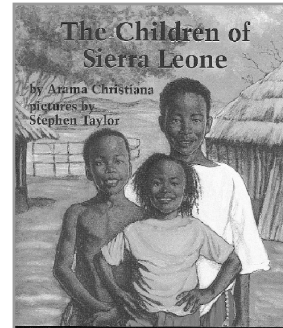
Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



The Children of Sierra Leone

Author Arama Christiana
 Illustrator Stephen Taylor
 16 pages ■ 142 words



The Children of Sierra Leone

Em	Early				Fluent			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	S				G	I		

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

SYNOPSIS

A group of children tells about some aspects of life in Sierra Leone, Africa.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Nonfiction informational narrative
- First person plural
- Present tense
- Strong cultural perspective
- Map
- Song within text
- Music and song text
- Information on setting on inside front cover
- Most sentences describe two actions

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Gathering information from illustrations to expand text
- Recording reference and extra information
- Compare and contrast with own experience

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

Where is Sierra Leone? Where could we look to find out or to check? Where and how might the author help us? (Inside front cover and map on page 3)

What kind of information might the author provide about children in another country? Let's list our questions to use as a framework for our reading.

As we read and you find information about one of these questions, we can note the page and say whether you found the information in the text or in the illustration.

Then we can return to it to see what else we need to find out to help us think about children living in Sierra Leone.

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The Children of Sierra Leone (continued)

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

Page 2: *This page introduces the characters.*

How does the illustration expand the text?

Does this page provide any part of an answer to any of our questions?

What comparisons can you make between what the illustration tells you about where they live and your surroundings?

- Ensure students realize that any one question may require information from more than one page or illustration to provide a complete or satisfactory answer.
- Draw attention to the sentences describing two actions and how this increases the pace of the story and the busyness of their life.

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Revisit list of questions, identifying what information remains to be found. Students compile a list of facts about living in Sierra Leone.
- Discuss the role of illustrations in extending the text and what an illustrator would need to know or do before illustrating a book such as this.
- Revisit the song on page 15 and compose one together or individually, depending on the students' experience in writing in this form.