

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



The Children of Sierra Leone

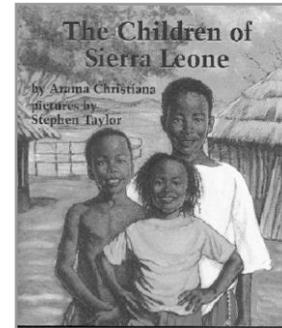
Author Arama Christiana

Illustrator Stephen Taylor

16 pages ■ 142 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level J

Reading Recovery Level 18



The Children of Sierra Leone

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 business 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.

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The Children of Sierra Leone (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>I think stars are . . . because they . . . The children who live in Sierra Leone like to . . . and . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>Where is Sierra Leone located? What do the kids pick from the trees? Why do they do that? How do you know?</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Do you think the weather is hot or cold in Sierra Leone? How do you know? Check out the homes in the village on pages 12 and 13. How do you think it would feel to live in grass huts? Do you think they have microwave ovens, computers, bathtubs, and refrigerators?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Look up information on astronomy and constellations (star formations). Then draw a few constellations that you think are interesting. For example, you might draw the 'Big Dipper.' Be sure to label each constellation. If you want to use white paper and white crayons to draw your stars, you can then use a wet wash of black tempera paint mixed with water to paint over it all. This will give you a black sky and your stars will show through! Happy stargazing...</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>Find the song on the inside back cover. Read the lyrics (words) to the music. Then make a list of all the words that were used in this song. Only list each word once even though you might see it repeated throughout the song. How many words make up the song, Stars Shining Overhead?</i>

Book Note by Margaret E. Mooney

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

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