



The Booklist Project



Focus: World Holidays
Developed by: Nadya Mathews
SPRING, 2014

Book List Project

Nadya Mathews

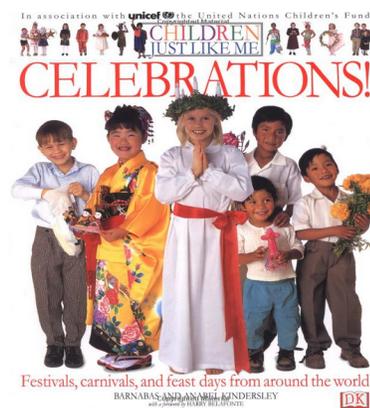
TESL 507-Teaching Reading and Writing to ESL

Prof. Nancy Cloud

Book List: Celebrations and Holidays Around the World Focus

Interest level: 3-5

Reading gr. level: 3-5



1- Children Just Like Me: Celebrations!

Kindersley, B. Kindersley, A. (1997). *Children just like me: Celebrations!* New York, NY: DK Publishing, Inc.

[ISBN-10: 0789420279]

[ISBN-13: 978-0789420275]

Book summary: This book is about different holidays around the world. The book is a true artifact that contains pictures of real children dressed up in their national costumes who share their story about how they celebrate the holiday with the families in their country. The celebrations are arranged by season and include: Christmas in Germany, Halloween in Canada, Hanukkah in the U.S., Diwali in India, Hina Matsuri in Japan, and Egemenlik Bayrami in Turkey. Each holiday is shown on a two-page spread with a large photograph of a featured child or children and many smaller captioned photographs of the festivities and the culture.

The book will be a good resource for Developing (3)/Bridging(5) ESL students as it offers many culturally diverse pictures, symbols, artifacts, recipes and festivals – through real-life pictures and translations of the names of the holidays into the home languages, thus tapping in in to their culture.

Proficiency level: Bridging/Reaching

Available in hardcover, paperback.

Interest level: 3-5

Reading grade level: 5.4

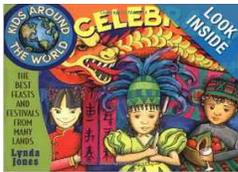
Pictures are culturally inclusive and diverse.

Lesson planning:

<http://lessonplanspage.com/sslaocountriesandculturesideas18-htm/>

<https://images.epals.com/holidays/Holidays%20Around%20the%20World%20Unit%20Plan.pdf>

2 - Kids Around the World Celebrate! **The Best Feasts and Festivals from Many Lands**



Jones, L. (1999). *Kids around the world celebrate! The best feasts and festivals from many lands*. New York: Jossey-Bass, Inc.

[ISBN-10: 047134527]

[ISBN-13: 978-0471345275]

Each chapter in this great book offers a simple explanation of customs and cultures followed by hands-on activities to help children Celebrate! Organized by theme, the book includes chapters on "Welcoming the New Year," "Celebrating Before and After Fasts," "Giving Thanks," and "Renewing the Spirit." In addition to some well-known celebrations such as Chinese New Year, Mardi Gras, and El Dia de los Reyes, the author includes less familiar festivals from Scotland, Ecuador, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, India, Nigeria, Barbados, and Japan. The recipes and art projects are clearly explained and illustrated, and include helpful lists such as "Here's What You Need" and "Here's What You Do."

The book would be great for ELLs as it offers a stress-free way to learn the content through tapping into the students' home culture and conducting an interesting activity, such as making cookies. This could also

be cross-curricular textbook (science, English, math), as following a recipe, for instance, requires some math skills, and so on. The book can be used as a supplement to the unit on the world holidays.

Proficiency Level: Developing /Expanding/Bridging

Reading gr. level: 5

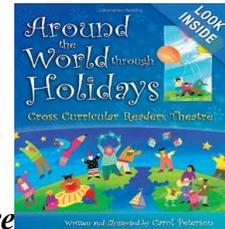
Available in paperback, hardcover, library binding, and kindle edition.

Lesson planning:

<https://images.epals.com/holidays/Holidays%20Around%20the%20World%20Unit%20Plan.pdf>

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/promoting-cultural-values-through-1134.html?tab=4>

Pictures are culturally inclusive and diverse.



3-Around the World through Holidays: Cross Curricular Readers Theatre

Peterson, C. (2005). *Around the world through holidays: Cross curricular readers' theatre*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.

[**ISBN-10:** 1594690138]

[**ISBN-13:** 978-1594690136]

The book contains 12 plays, adaptable for non-theatrical performance readings. Each play introduces children to different cultures around the world by looking at holidays celebrated in that culture. Peterson introduces the holidays chronologically by month, including Passover, Dragon Boat Festival, Oban, Ramadan, and Las Posadas. Each play is accompanied by suggested activities for social studies, literacy, science, and math. Included is an appendix with recommended resources for teachers as well as a list of suggested books for students.

ESL students can benefit from modeling the play (TPR activity) and learning both the content and the language in a fun way.

Proficiency level: Expanding/Bridging

Reading gr. level: 4-6

Available in paperback and kindle edition.

Author website:

Carol Peterson:

<http://carolpetersonauthor.com/about-carol/>

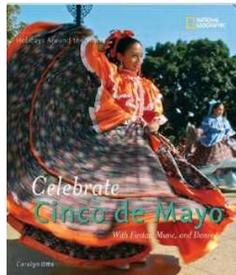
http://www.amazon.com/Carol-Peterson/e/B001JP46Z0/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1

Lesson planning:

<https://images.epals.com/holidays/Holidays%20Around%20the%20World%20Unit%20Plan.pdf>

<http://lessonplanspage.com/sslaocicountriesandculturesideas18-htm/>

4- Holidays Around the World: Celebrate Cinco de Mayo: with Fiestas, Music, and Dance



Otto, C. (2008). *Holidays around the world: Celebrate Cinco de Mayo: with fiestas, music, and dance*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Children's Books.

[ISBN-10: 1426302150]

[ISBN-13: 978-1426302152]

This book, part of the Holidays Around the World series, combines a clear, read-aloud–friendly text with big, beautiful color photos. After introducing Cinco de Mayo's 1862 origins, the author shows and tells how the celebration has become an annual, joyous festival of Mexican culture, both north and south of the border. The photos offer colorful views of fiestas, musicians, dance, food, and parades. The large font introduces the main ideas and grabs readers' attention. There is also bibliography, recipes, a glossary about the holiday's place in Latino culture.

ESL students, especially Latino students, will benefit from learning about the Mexican culture in English and participating in various activities, like dancing a Mexican Folk Dance and/or making burritos.

About the Author:

Carolyn Otto is the author of more than twenty books, including several award-winning children's non-fiction titles. She has also written poetry and fiction for children and adults. She earned her master's degree from New York University.

Proficiency level: Developing – Expanding

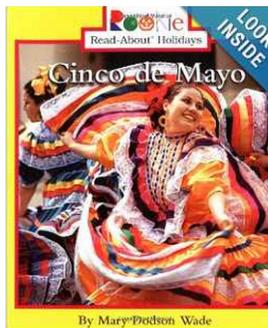
Grade level: 6

Available in hardcover.

Websites:

<https://images.epals.com/holidays/Holidays%20Around%20the%20World%20Unit%20Plan.pdf>

5- Cinco De Mayo (Rookie Read-About Holidays)



Wade, M. (2003). *Cinco de Mayo (Rookie Read-About Holidays)*. New York, NY: Children's Press.

[ISBN-10: 0516274899]

[ISBN-13: 978-0516274898]

The book outlines the events that led up to the Battle of Puebla in remarkably simple terms, and then shows various aspects of contemporary festivities, including a mariachi band, dancers, parades, and so on. Transliterations of unfamiliar words are provided, as well. A vocabulary review closes each book.

The book is great for ELS, especially for Spanish-speaking emergent readers, as it contains pages with text in both Spanish and English. The text is simple and supported with colorful pictures.

Proficiency level: Emerging-Developing

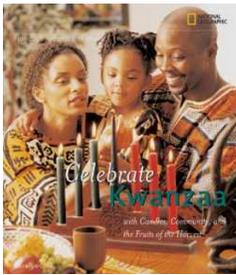
Grade level: 1.8-2.3

Available in paperback, library binding.

Lesson planning

Cross-curricular unit: [http://kiboomukidssongs.com/cinco-de-mayo-mexican-rice-flag-craft/it study](http://kiboomukidssongs.com/cinco-de-mayo-mexican-rice-flag-craft/it%20study)):
<http://schoolhoureviewcrew.com/cinco-de-mayo-unit-study/>

6 -Holidays Around the World: Celebrate Kwanzaa: With Candles, Community, and the Fruits of the Harvest



Otto, C. (2008). *Holidays around the world: Celebrate Kwanzaa: With candles, community, and the fruits of the harvest*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Childrens' Books.

[ISBN-10: 142630319X]

[ASIN: B005SNJA2S]

A great book to introduce children to the spirit of an African-American holiday: Kwanzaa- and what it means to be of an African descent. Very informative, colorful, easy and fun to read. The book offers a large font (thus, content vocabulary. (ex, “candles, community, ancestry” is in extra large font, which could be great for frontloading and revisiting of the content). Colorful pictures demonstrate how the holiday is celebrated and recognized by students throughout the world, like in Africa, and the United States. The glossary, a recipe (of a sweet potato pie) and an activity (how to make a rainstick) in the back of the book make a great addition.

The book is great for ELL's due to the large font of the important vocabulary accompanied by colorful pictures, repetitive grammatical structures ("We celebrate.." "We light..") and comprehensive text.

Proficiency levels: Emerging – Expanding

Reading Grade level: 4.2

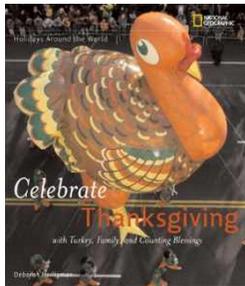
Available in hardcover.

Lesson planning:

<https://images.epals.com/holidays/Holidays%20Around%20the%20World%20Unit%20Plan.pdf>

<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tresources/units/Byrnes-celebrations/kwanzaa.html>

7 - Holidays Around the World: Celebrate Thanksgiving: With Turkey, Family, and Counting Blessings



Heiligman, D. (2008). *Holidays around the world: Celebrate Thanksgiving: With turkey, family, and counting blessings*. New York, NY: National Geographic Childrens' Books.

[ISBN-10: 142630292]

[ISBN-13: 978-1426302923]

The author relates this holiday to the harvest festivals celebrated by thankful believers of many faiths all over the globe. The book has great visuals that show the celebration in its historical and cultural aspects. The book also contains a Thanksgiving recipe, a glossary, and a useful list of holiday references and resources –that could be used by students, their families and the teachers.

Great visual support and easy to read short sentences that tend to repeat throughout the book ("We feel... We hear ... We all celebrate ..), thus, making this book a great resource for ESL students.

Proficiency levels: Developing

Grade levels: 5.6

Available in paperback and hardcover.

Websites:

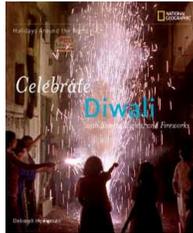
<https://images.epals.com/holidays/Holidays%20Around%20the%20World%20Unit%20Plan.pdf>

Author's website:

<http://deborahheiligman.com/>

<http://www.brownalumnimagazine.com/content/view/3202/32/>

8- Holidays Around the World: Celebrate Diwali: With Sweets, Lights, and Fireworks



Heiligman, D. (2006). *Holidays around the world: Celebrate Diwali: With sweets, lights, and fireworks*.

Washington, D.C: National Geographic Childrens' Books.

[ISBN-10: 1426302916]

[ISBN-13: 978-1426302916]

Book summary: the book is about a Hindu holiday –Diwali- that celebrates the triumph of good over evil, and of light over darkness. Although celebrated differently in different places, Diwali is universally viewed as a time of great joy, celebrated with fireworks, sweets, and gifts, as well as with food and celebration rituals. The book includes a card game (Teen Pathi), a recipe of Vasu's Peda, a map and a resource list of book and websites.

The book is great for ESL students, especially for emergent-developing levels, as it slowly introduces new vocabulary in a large font and does so with big colorful pictures and artifacts. The big ideas of the holiday (ex. There are so many sweets” also stand out that makes the learning process less stressful.

Proficiency levels: emerging-expanding

Grade levels: 4.9

Available in paperback and hardcover

Websites:

<https://images.epals.com/holidays/Holidays%20Around%20the%20World%20Unit%20Plan.pdf>

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/lets-celebrate-diwali>

About the author:

<http://www.brownalumnimagazine.com/content/view/3202/32/>

Pictures are culturally inclusive and diverse.

9- Holidays Around the World: Celebrate Passover: With Matzah, Maror, and Memories



Heiligman, D. (2010). *Holidays around the world: Celebrate Passover: With matzah, maror, and memories*. New York, NY: National Geographic Childrens' Books.

[ISBN-10: 1426306296]

[ISBN-13: 978-1426306297]

“Celebrate Passover” begins with a short recitation of the Passover story and then moves directly into how the holiday is celebrated. Comprehensive pictures accompany text. The clean format evokes the spring holiday, but the book's visual emphasis is also on Jewish communities in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and elsewhere. Appendix in the back of the book offers recipes, glossary, map of the places where the pictures had been taken.

Teacher could go over glossary and pictures, especially with the ESL students, engage the latter in activities.

Proficiency levels: Expanding-Bridging

Grade levels: 4.8

Available in paperback, hardcover

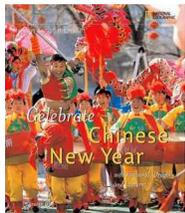
Lesson planning links:

<https://images.epals.com/holidays/Holidays%20Around%20the%20World%20Unit%20Plan.pdf>

<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/byrnes-celebrations/passover.html>

<http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=9347>

10 -Holidays Around the World: Celebrate Chinese New Year: With Fireworks, Dragons, and Lanterns



Otto, C. (2009). *Holidays around the world: Celebrate Chinese New Year: With fireworks, dragons, and lanterns*. New York, NY: National Geographic Children's Books

[ISBN-10: 1426303815]

Celebrate Chinese New Year is a great addition to National Geographic's popular Holidays Around the World series. The book talks about the Chinese tradition, the Festival of Lanterns, the famous Dragon Dance. Fireworks, parades, lanterns, presents, and feasts: these are some of the joys experienced by all who observe Chinese New Year. With 25 colorful images and a simple text with repetitive grammatical structure (therefore, great for ESL students), the book is a lively read about this child-friendly, national and international holiday around the world. The book offers an activity, a famous recipe for a fortune cookie, a glossary and fun facts in the back.

Teachers whose ESL students have Asian ancestors will provide a great way to boost their students' self-confidence and esteem, enriching their English vocabulary.

Proficiency levels: Developing-Expanding

Grade level: 3.6

Available in Hardcover and paperback

Lesson Planning:

<http://lessonplanspage.com/osslaartcelebratechinesenewyeark3-htm/>

<https://images.epals.com/holidays/Holidays%20Around%20the%20World%20Unit%20Plan.pdf>

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



The Booklist Project

A Project of the
M.Ed. In TESL Program,



Feinstein School of Education and Human
Development
Rhode Island College

For Further Information, Contact:

Nancy Cloud, Ed.D., Director

ncloud@ric.edu

Rhode Island College

600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue

Providence, RI 02908