A Curriculum Guide to Books by Jeanette Winter

NASREEN'S SECRET SCHOOL: A TRUE STORY FROM AFGHANISTAN

BIBLIOBURRO: A TRUE STORY FROM COLOMBIA

HENRI'S SCISSORS

MR. CORNELL'S DREAM BOXES

MALALA: A BRAVE GIRL FROM PAKISTAN
IQBAL: A BRAVE BOY FROM PAKISTAN

beach lane books
ABOUT THE BOOK

When the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in 1996, they made big changes in the lives of ordinary people. Girls were forbidden to go to school. People were taken away with no explanation. Women and girls were forbidden to go out in the streets alone.

But there are always people who refuse to stand by and let these destructive things happen without trying to do something. Nasreen’s grandmother was one such person. First, she watched Nasreen sit home all day long because she was forbidden to go to school. Then she watched as soldiers took Nasreen’s father away, and as Nasreen’s mother left home to try to find him she, too, never returned. Grandmother saw Nasreen become so silent and withdrawn, she knew she had to act. She took Nasreen to a secret school where classes were held for girls. At first, Nasreen didn’t speak at all, but slowly she reached out to her classmates and teacher. Nasreen opened herself up to the gift of learning, and it changed her life for the better. As her grandmother said, “…the soldiers can never close the windows that have opened for my granddaughter.”

This is a true story of bravery and action, with a powerful message for children: Individual acts of courage and resistance to unfair practices can make a difference.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/ACTIVITIES

Key Ideas and Details

The discussion questions and activities below draw on Common Core State Standards for reading informational text (RI) that ask children to ask and answer questions about key details in a text (RI.1–4.1), identify the main topic and key details that support it (RI.1–4.2), and describe the relationship between a series of events, concepts, or ideas (RI.1.3, 4).

This book tells how the lives of Nasreen and her family were changed when the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan. It also tells about how resistance to unfair, oppressive treatment can make a difference. The questions below explore the effects of change and resistance to unfair, oppressive treatment.

1. When the soldiers came to Herat, the city in Afghanistan where Nasreen lived, everything changed. What was life like for Nasreen and her family before the soldiers came? What was it like after they arrived? Fill in the chart below to show the changes that occurred. Then, illustrate the chart on a separate piece of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before the Soldiers</th>
<th>After the Soldiers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art and music</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going to school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being safe at home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Nasreen went to a secret school. What happened at the secret school that does not happen at your school?

3. Going to the secret school changed Nasreen. Before going to the school, she was silent and never smiled. After attending the school she was different. What changes did Grandmother notice in Nasreen?

4. Grandmother also changed. At the beginning of the story she was troubled. At the end of the story she tells us, “As for me, my mind is at ease.” What happened to make Nasreen’s grandmother calmer and more at ease?

5. Imagine that you can ask Nasreen some questions. What would they be? List your questions. Begin them with words like Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How. Here are some sample questions:
   • When did your life change?
   • What happened to make you so sad and silent?
   • Where did your grandmother take you?
   • Why did you go to a secret school?
   • Who helped you feel better?
   • How do you feel now?
Write a poem, listing some of your questions for Nasreen. Here is an example:

Questions for Nasreen
• Nasreen, why were you so sad and silent?
• Who helped you feel better?
• Was it the secret school and your friend Mina?
• Was it your brave grandmother?
• Nasreen, how do you feel now?

Or, write a question-and-answer poem in which you ask a question and then Nasreen answers. Here is an example:

Questions for Nasreen
• Nasreen, why are you so sad and silent?
  I miss my parents. I don’t know where they are.
• Nasreen, who helped you feel better?
  My grandmother took me to a secret school.
  I saw that there were people who cared.
  A special friend named Mina whispered to me, “I missed you.”
• Nasreen, how do you feel now?
  I still miss my parents, but the things I learn keep me company.

6. Resisting something means fighting against it. Explain what each of the following people did to resist the changes made by the soldiers:
• Nasreen’s grandmother
• The boys outside the secret school
• The teacher at the secret school
• Nasreen’s mother
• Nasreen

7. What evidence is there that Nasreen and her grandmother successfully resisted the unfair changes made by the soldiers?

Craft and Structure
To learn about craft and structure, the CCSS asks us to help students learn and understand vocabulary words and phrases used in a text (RL.1–4.4), think about the features of nonfiction text (RL.1–4.5), and distinguish between information provided by the illustrations and information provided by the words in a text (RL.1–4.7). The questions and activities below emphasize these understandings.

8. Sometimes you can figure out the meaning of vocabulary words and phrases by using the context. That is, you look for clues in the other nearby words. (See *Nasreen’s Secret School* Meaning and Context Reproducible Sheet at the end of this section.)

9. In the Author’s Note, Jeannette Winter gives readers information that helps them understand the book. Why do you think the author put this note in the front of the book? Discuss what she tells you about the following:
• How she got the idea for writing the book
• What life was like before and after the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan
• How some people defied the Taliban and still defy tyranny

10. To completely understand this story, look carefully at both the words and illustrations. You will see that they work together to create meaning.

Model this process for the students. Discuss both the text and illustration on the first page of the book.
• What information is only given in the written text?
  *It mentions the city of Herat, Grandmother, and Nasreen. It mentions that art, music, and learning once flourished in Herat.*
• What information is only given in the illustration?
  *It shows Nasreen enclosed in darkness. A dark cloud hangs over the whole city.*
• How do the written text and the illustration work together?
  *The text and the illustrations together show that darkness is enclosing the city and how this darkness affects Nasreen.*

As a group, have students examine other pages to see how text and illustration work together. Have students study each page and share their findings by answering these questions:
• What information is only given in the written text?
• What information is only given in the illustration?
• How do the written text and the illustration work together?
Writing
CCSS emphasizes writing informative and explanatory text in the early grades. The writing activities below provide experience writing to give an opinion (W.1–4.1), to inform (W.1–4.2), and to explain a sequence of events (W.1–4.3).

11. A courageous person is someone who has the mental or moral strength to persevere and withstand danger or fear. This person can do difficult and even dangerous things. Sometimes a courageous person defies authority. Imagine that you have been selected to present an award to Nasreen’s grandmother for her courageous behavior. Write the speech you would give, explaining why she deserves this award. Design an award to give.

12. Explain how Nasreen’s life changed after the soldiers arrived. Use the sequence chart to include six events to highlight. (See *Nasreen’s Secret School* Sequence Chart Reproducible Sheet at the end of this section.)

13. Bring one of the pictures in the book to life. With a partner, write down what the people are saying. For example, when Grandmother and Nasreen arrive at the secret school, what does Grandmother say to the teacher who opens the gate? How does the teacher reply? What do they say when they enter the school? Or, write the conversation between Nasreen and Mina when Nasreen returns to school. Practice reading your conversation and then present it to your classmates.

Extending the Experience of Reading the Book
14. Watch a video of Nasreen’s Secret School at YouTube.com/watch?v=WE9b1gR4YZE

15. Hear Jeanette Winter speak about Nasreen’s Secret School at teachingbooks.net/book_reading.cgi?id=5107&a=1

16. Read these other nonfiction picture books by Jeanette Winter:
- *Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia*
- *Henri’s Scissors*
- *Malala, a Brave Girl from Pakistan/Iqbal, a Brave Boy from Pakistan*
- *Mr. Cornell’s Dream Boxes*
Meaning and Context Activity

Sometimes you can figure out the meaning of vocabulary words and phrases by using the context. That is, you look for clues in other nearby words. See if you can figure out the meaning of each underlined word or phrase in the sentences below. If you need more room to write, you can continue your answers on the back of the sheet.

My granddaughter, Nasreen, lives with me in Herat, an ancient city in Afghanistan.

What I think the underlined word means: ________________________________

What clues I used to figure out the meaning of the underlined words: ________________________________________________________________

I was fearful that the soldiers would discover the school.
But the girls were clever.
They slipped in and out of school at different times,
so as not to arouse suspicion.

What I think the underlined word means: ________________________________

What clues I used to figure out the meaning of the underlined words: ________________________________________________________________

But all he found was a room filled with girls reading the Koran, which was allowed.
The girls had hidden their schoolwork, outwitting the soldier.

What I think the underlined word means: ________________________________

What clues I used to figure out the meaning of the underlined word: ________________________________________________________________

Sometimes you can figure out meaning by seeing how the words work together. Try to figure out the meaning of the underlined phrases below. These words are called idioms because they have a different meaning than the literal meaning of each word.

Nasreen stayed inside herself.

What I think this sentence means: ________________________________________

Nasreen opened her heart to Mina.

What I think this sentence means: ________________________________________

Windows opened for Nasreen in that little schoolroom.

What I think this sentence means: ________________________________________
Sequence Chart Activity

Explain how Nasreen’s life changed after the soldiers arrived. Use the sequence chart to include six events to highlight. Number each box and write and draw about the events in the order in which they occurred. Then use the information in the sequence chart to write a paragraph on the back of this sheet explaining how Nasreen’s life changed.
ABOUT THE BOOK

Luis Soriano lives deep in the jungles of Colombia. He is a man who loves books so much that he fills his house with them. When his wife, Diana, begins to grumble, he makes an important decision. He will share his books with children in faraway villages who have none. To do this, he first buys two sturdy burros [a burro is a small donkey] that he names Alfa and Beto. Then he builds some crates to carry the books on their backs, and Diana fills these crates with books. Finally, he paints signs that say BIBLIOBURRO—the Burro Library. Now he is ready.

Each week Luis brings books to different villages in the countryside. When he arrives, he reads a story to the children and encourages them to choose books to borrow. Then he returns home to Diana, to a satisfying meal, and to his enjoyment of reading deep into the night.

This is a true story of giving and sharing, with a powerful message for children: When we share the things we love with others, everyone benefits.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/ACTIVITIES

Key Ideas and Details

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This book explores the effects of one man’s decision to share what he values—his books—with children in faraway villages who might not have books of their own. His decision to travel to a different village every week, despite the danger from bandits on the roads, is an act of caring and civic-mindedness. It reveals his character (how he generally behaves) and his values (the things he believes are important). The questions below explore the effects of Luis’s decision to share with others.

Thinking about Luis’s Decision:
1. When the story begins, Luis has a problem. What is it?
2. What does Luis do to solve this problem?
3. What else could Luis have done instead?
4. How do you know that Luis cares about other people?

Thinking about the Effects of Luis’s Decision on Other People:
5. How did Luis’s decision to share affect other people?
   • Diana
   • The bandit who stopped him
   • Children in the faraway village of El Tormento
6. How do you know that the children in the villages are glad when the BIBLIOBURRO arrives?
7. Working with a partner, have the students cut out the words and phrases listed below and then put them in order so that they can retell the story. There are several possible ways to order the words. Have the students practice retelling the story. Encourage them to use words like first, second, next, after that, and finally to show the order in which things happened. Ask them to include relevant facts and details in their retelling.

How Luis Soriano Brought Books to the Faraway Hills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Luis</th>
<th>Alfa and Beto</th>
<th>BIBLIOBURRO</th>
<th>burros</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bandit</td>
<td>books</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana</td>
<td>borrowed books</td>
<td>jungles</td>
<td>El Tormento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crates</td>
<td>faraway villages</td>
<td>masks</td>
<td>choose books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Craft and Structure
To learn about craft and structure, the CCSS asks us to help students learn and understand vocabulary words and phrases used in a text (RI.1–4.4), think about the features of nonfiction text (RI.1–4.5), and distinguish between information provided by the illustrations and information provided by the words in a text (RI.1–4.7). The questions and activities below emphasize these understandings.

8. Create a fourfold Vocabulary. (See Biblioburro Fourfold Vocabulary Reproducible Sheet at the end of this section.)
In section one, students write the word. In section two, they tell what the word means. In section three, they draw a picture to illustrate the word. In section four, they use the word in a sentence. Before beginning this exercise, discuss the meaning of each vocabulary word to be included. For example, discuss the meaning of the word share. To begin the discussion you might say: When you share, you let other people have or use something that belongs to you. You can share your toys and games, your cookies and other snacks, and your thoughts and ideas. Sharing involves two or more people. In the story Biblioburro, Luis shared his books with children in faraway villages. What are some things you have shared with others? What have other people shared with you?

9. In the Author’s Note at the end of the book, Jeanette Winter gives readers more information about Luis Soriano. Discuss the new information about the following:
• Where Luis lives
• When he began the Biblioburro
• How his collection of books has grown
Why do you think the author included this information at the end of the book?
Why do you think she included a quote from Luis Soriano?

10. Several illustrations in this book use speech balloons to show what a person says or thought bubbles to show what a person thinks. These words and thoughts help you understand the meaning of the book. As you examine the pages below, discuss how the speech balloons and thought bubbles in the illustrations help you understand the story.

Model this process for the students. Using the illustration (example at right) showing Luis’s house filled with books and Diana saying, “What are we going to do, eat these books with our rice?” discuss how Diana’s words provide additional information. They tell what she says when she “grumbles.”

Examining the Use of Speech Balloons. Examine the use of speech balloons in the spreads to the right. Tell what additional information these words provide.
• “The children are waiting for us!”
• “Give me your silver!”

Examining the Use of Thought Bubbles. Examine the use of thought bubbles in the following two-page spreads shown at the bottom. Tell what additional information these thoughts provide.
• The thought bubble shows Luis traveling into the faraway hills to share his books with the children. It also shows the two burros.
• The thought bubbles show the children envisioning the story Luis is reading to them.

11. Draw your own picture about Luis and the Biblioburro. Include speech balloons or thought bubbles showing what people are saying or thinking. Here are some ideas of things to illustrate.
• Diana filling the crates with books
• Luis arriving at El Tormento and the children running to meet him
• Luis showing the children a bundle of masks
• The children holding their books and saying good-bye to Luis
• Luis arriving home

Illustrations © Jeanette Winter
Writing
CCSS emphasizes writing informative and explanatory text in the early grades. The writing activities below provide experience writing to give an opinion (W.1–4.1), to inform (W.1–4.2), and to explain a sequence of events (W.1–4.3).

12. Google images of Luis Soriano and the Biblioburro. Download illustrations showing (1) Luis traveling to a faraway village, (2) arriving at the village, (3) reading to the children, and (4) returning home. Have the children put the photographs in order and then write about each of these four steps in the order in which they occurred.

13. Draw a picture of each of the following people:
- Luis
- Diana
- A child living in El Tormento
- The bandit
Underneath each picture tell what that person thinks about the Biblioburro. Explain why each person thinks the way they do.

14. Bring one of the illustrations in the book to life. Write down what the people are saying. With a partner, create a one-page play. Here are some suggestions for plays:
- Diana and Luis discussing all the books in their house
- Luis telling the bandit that he has no silver
- Luis telling the children in El Tormento to put on a mask
- Luis saying good-bye to the children
- Luis arriving home to Diana and his books

Extending the Experience of Reading the Book
15. Watch videos of Luis Soriano on the PBS website at: pbs.org/pov/biblioburro/news_coverage.php
These videos include:
- “Teaching Kids to Read from the Back of a Burro” (CNN Heroes)
- “Biblioburro—The Donkey Library” (in Spanish with English subtitles)
- “Biblioburro Updates” This video shows the opening of La Gloria’s first library (in Spanish with English Subtitles)

16. Read books about other teachers/librarians:
- The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq by Jeanette Winter
- Alia’s Mission: Saving the Books of Iraq by Mark Alan Stamaty
- Miss Moore Thought Otherwise: How Anne Carroll Moore Created Libraries for Children by Jan Pinborough
- My Librarian Is a Camel: How Books Are Brought to Children Around the World by Margriet Ruurs
- That’s Our Librarian! by Ann Morris
- That Book Woman by Heather Henson

17. Read other books by Jeanette Winter:
- Henri’s Scissors
- Malala, a Brave Girl from Pakistan/Iqbal, a Brave Boy from Pakistan
- Mr. Cornell’s Dream Boxes
- Nasreen’s Secret School
**Fourfold Vocabulary Activity**

In section one, read the word. In section two, tell what the word means. In section three, draw a picture to illustrate the word. In section four, use the word in a sentence. Your teacher may give you extra words to enter in the blank rows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Picture</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>share</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jungle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grassland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sturdy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ABOUT THE BOOK
Throughout his life, Matisse loved to draw. As a young boy, Matisse drew pictures in the sand and in his schoolbooks. As a young man, he even drew in his law books and on contracts, deeds, and wills. When he began to paint, he made himself and others happy. As an old man, when he could no longer paint, he found joy in using scissors to cut shapes from colored paper.

This book celebrates Matisse's lifelong love of art. Jeanette Winter's illustrations show the power of art to enlarge and enrich Matisse's life. Smaller illustrations at the beginning of the book show Matisse's emerging fascination with drawing pictures, while the larger illustrations of the artwork produced during his later life take up entire two-page spreads. The artwork he produced grows larger and larger, dominating his life and making him happy and content.

Use this book to spark conversations about developing lifelong interests that enrich our lives. Like Matisse, students may want to share their interests with everyone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/ACTIVITIES
Key Ideas and Details
The discussion questions and activities below draw on Common Core State Standards for reading informational text (RI) that ask children to ask and answer questions about key details in a text (RI.K–3.1), identify the main topic and key details that support it (RI.K–3.2), and describe the relationship between a series of events, concepts, or ideas (RI.K–3.3).

Thinking about Henri Matisse's Lifelong Delight in Creating Art
1. How did Henri Matisse make art a big part of his life as a boy, a young man, and an old man?
2. Why did Henri stop painting? How did it make him feel?
3. When Henri went to the seaside, what new type of artwork did he create?
4. Henri wrote these words when he was an old man: “It seems like I am in a second life.” What did he mean?
5. Have students create their own cutouts using colored paper. Follow the lesson plan ideas for “drawing with scissors” in the aTree lesson plans about color. This free download consists of thirty pages of art projects for kids in the style of Matisse, Monet, Mondrian, and Seurat. Find this at teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Color-lesson-plans-610644

Craft and Structure
To learn about craft and structure, the CCSS asks us to help students learn and understand vocabulary words and phrases used in a text (RI.K–3.4), think about the features of nonfiction text (RI.K–3.5), and distinguish between information provided by the illustrations and information provided by the words in a text (RI.K–3.7). The questions and activities below emphasize these understandings.

6. The author’s language helps us imagine Henri’s thoughts and actions. Read each sentence below and discuss how it helps you understand Henri’s lifelong love of art.
   • “His paintings floated by in his dreams.”
   • “He was drawing with scissors!”
   • “Then one night, Matisse walked out into his paper garden, and the rainbow of shapes cradled the old artist and carried him into the heavens.”
   • “Are some of the stars we see at night coming to us from Henri’s scissors?”

7. The author repeats a word or phrase several times to emphasize an important idea. Examine the examples below. How does the author’s use of repetition help you understand Henri’s life story?
   • “He drew pictures in the sand, and he drew pictures in his school books. When Henri was a young man, he drew pictures in his law books and on contracts, deeds, and wills.”
   • “His mother gave him a box of paints, and he painted until he was well. He kept on painting, forgot about law, and left his small town to be an artist in Paris. Henry painted pictures day after day and year after year.”
   • “But when Matisse was an old man, he fell ill—so ill he couldn’t paint, so ill he couldn’t sit up, so ill he could only lie in bed and sleep.”
8. Have students make a vocabulary foldable to practice using the words in the book. First, discuss the meanings of the words to be included. Here is a sample list, showing how each word is used in the book:

- **china** “In a small weaving town in France, a young boy named Henri-Émile-Benoit Matisse watched his mother paint china.”
- **contracts** “When Henri was a young man, he drew pictures in his law books and on contracts, deeds, and wills.”
- **appendicitis** “Henri was sick in bed with appendicitis one winter.”
- **seaside** “When Matisse was strong enough to travel, he went to the seaside—the sea air might help him get well.”
- **instrument** “A pair of scissors is a wonderful instrument.”
- **obliged** “You see I am obliged to remain often in bed.”
- **contented** “I am deeply contented, happy.”

Make copies of the Vocabulary Foldable for each student. (See Henri’s Scissors Vocabulary Foldable Reproducible Sheet at the end of this section.) On the front, students write the word and illustrate its meaning. Once the “doors” are cut, students write the meaning of the word and use it in a sentence. In this way, they practice using the words.

9. Read the Author’s Note with students, discussing what Jeanette Winter tells readers about why she wrote the book and the source that was most helpful to her.

10. When Matisse begins to draw with scissors, each of the double-page spreads in the book includes words, an illustration, and a quote. Discuss how these features work together to help us understand what is happening. Study the illustration at right. Think about these questions:

- What information is given in the words?
- What information is given in the illustration?
- What information is given in the quote?
- How do the words, illustration, and quote work together?

Notice that the words tell you that Matisse was cutting painted paper. The illustration shows that Matisse had left his bed and was sitting in a wheelchair. The quote focuses on the scissors, which he calls “a wonderful instrument.” The words, illustration, and quote all refer to scissors. Only the illustration shows the kind of shapes Matisse created. Together, the words, illustration, and quote explain this new kind of art Matisse was creating—“drawing with scissors.”

Use the questions above to discuss the following double-page spreads (samples shown below):

- “Matisse cut paper all day.”
- “Paper cutouts covered his walls.”
- “As time went on, Matisse cut bigger and bigger shapes.”
- “I am deeply contented, happy.”

Illustrations © Jeanette Winter
Writing

CCSS emphasizes writing informative and explanatory text in the early grades. The writing activities below provide experience writing to give an opinion (W.K–3.1), to inform (W.K–3.2), and to explain a sequence of events (W.K–3.3).

11. What do you think about drawing with scissors? Write about Matisse’s cutouts. Follow these steps:
   • First, introduce the topic and explain what it means to draw with scissors.
   • Second, give your opinion of this artwork.
   • Third, give a reason for your opinion
   • Fourth, provide an interesting ending.

12. Draw three pictures—Henri creating art as a boy, as a young man, and as an old man. Then, write about how his art changed over time. What kind of art did he do at different times in his life? Use words like at first, to begin, and to start to show that you are writing about the beginning of Matisse’s career. Use words like after, later, and in time to show that you are writing about the middle of his career. Use words like in the end, finally, and last of all to write about the end of his career.

13. Pretend you are Henri Matisse. Explain why you are content in your seaside room. What is making you content? Why does it seem like you now have a second life?

Extending the Experience of Reading the Book

14. Read other books about Henri Matisse:
   • Colorful Dreamer: The Story of Artist Henri Matisse by Marjorie Blain Parker
   • Matisse: The King of Color by Laurence Anholt
   • Oooh! Matisse by Mil Niepold and Jeanyet Verdu
   • Henri Matisse: Drawing with Scissors by Jane O’Connor
   • The Iridescence of Birds by Patricia MacLachlan
   • A Bird or Two: A Story about Henri Matisse by Bijou Le Tord

15. Read books about other artists:
   • Georgia’s Bones by Jen Bryant
   • My Name Is Georgia by Jeanette Winter
   • Action Jackson by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan
   • Dreamer from the Village: The Story of Marc Chagall by Michelle Markel
   • Wanda Gág: The Girl Who Loved to Draw by Deborah Kogan Ray
   • The Fantastic Jungles of Henri Rousseau by Michelle Markel
   • Mr. Cornell’s Dream Boxes by Jeanette Winter

16. Read additional books by Jeanette Winter:
   • Malala, a Brave Girl from Pakistan/Iqbal, a Brave Boy from Pakistan
   • Nasreen’s Secret School
   • Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia
   • The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq
   • Wangari’s Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa
   • The Watcher: Jane Goodall’s Life with the Chimps
   • Emily Dickinson’s Letters to the World
   • Sebastian: A Book About Bach

Illustrations © Jeanette Winter
Vocabulary Foldable

1. Print the Vocabulary Foldable template on a piece of paper, front-to-back, so that the dotted lines match up.
2. Fold the papers in half the long way and cut on the four dotted lines to form five flaps.
3. Choose five vocabulary words from *Henri’s Scissors*. Write one word on the outside of each flap in the top triangle.
4. In the bottom triangle, under the word, draw a symbol or picture that will help remember the word. Open the flap and write the definition and a sentence.

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*Henri’s Scissors*
By Jeanette Winter • Beach Lane Books • REPRODUCIBLE

Illustrations © Jeanette Winter
ABOUT THE BOOK
Joseph Cornell created shadow boxes—boxes with a glass front for a viewer to look inside. He placed his dreams and memories inside these boxes. Using items he found while roaming around New York City, he filled the boxes with memories of things like the penny arcade, Coney Island, and a dancer in the snow. Mr. Cornell was an artist and a writer. He wrote about his thoughts and dreams in journals, filling more than 30,000 pages. Not only did he remember and value these memories, he loved to share them with children, his favorite audience. He even invited children to an exhibition of his work, where the boxes were placed at just the right height for young viewers.

This book celebrates the unique creativity of artist Joseph Cornell. As the author tells us:
“Mr. Cornell didn’t draw.”
“Mr. Cornell didn’t paint.”
“Mr. Cornell made shadow boxes with things he found while he roamed the city—Wonderlands covered in glass.”

The book ends by inviting children to share their dreams and memories, just the way Joseph Cornell did.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/ACTIVITIES
Key Ideas and Details
The discussion questions and activities below draw on Common Core State Standards for reading informational text (RI) that ask children to ask and answer questions about key details in a text (RI.K–3.1), identify the main topic and key details that support it (RI.K–3.2), and describe the relationship between a series of events, concepts, or ideas (RI.K–3.3).

1. What did Mr. Cornell do to share his dreams and memories?
2. What memories did he share?
3. How do you know he especially liked to share his memories with children?
4. Explain what the author means when she writes:
   “Mr. Cornell wouldn’t have noticed you looking in.
   He saw mostly dreams and memories,
   and he filled his boxes with them.”
5. Do you agree with Mr. Cornell that remembering is important? How do you collect your memories?
6. Students can create their own shadow boxes by following the lead of Joseph Cornell and Jeanette Winter. What does the book tell you about how Mr. Cornell created the boxes? Gather information in a chart like the one below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How Mr. Cornell Made Shadow Boxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• He used things he found when he roamed the city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• He used dreams and memories.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gather things from your neighborhood.
Gather your dreams and memories.

Jeanette Winter cuts out figures and shapes to go with the things she collects.
Cut out figures and shapes you can include with your collected items.

For inspiration, watch the following:
• Watch a slide show of Joseph Cornell’s boxes on the website of the Smithsonian Art Museum at americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/online/cornell/imagination/cornell/index.html
• View a collection of Joseph Cornell’s boxes at the WebMuseum at ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/cornell/

After making your box, write a description of your dream or memory.

Craft and Structure
To learn about craft and structure, the CCSS asks us to help students learn and understand vocabulary words and phrases used in a text (RI.K–3.4), think about the features of nonfiction text (RI.K–3.5), and distinguish between information provided by the illustrations and information provided by the words in a text (RI.K–3.7). The questions and activities below emphasize these understandings.
7. Have students make a list of important words and phrases used in the story. Here is a sample list:

- Utopia Parkway
- memories
- exhibition
- kitchen
- shadow boxes
- backyard
- wonderlands
- invite
- roamed the city
- upstairs window
- dim light
- dreams
- sweets
- remember

Then have them use the list to write a **twenty-word summary**, telling the most important information about *Mr. Cornell's Dream Boxes*.

Here is an example of a twenty-word summary: In his home on Utopia Parkway, Mr. Cornell made shadow boxes and wrote in his journal, sharing dreams and memories.

A reproducible handout for students can be found at [readingquest.org/pdf/sumitup.pdf](http://readingquest.org/pdf/sumitup.pdf)

8. Use the words listed above to make a **word splash**. Arrange these words randomly on a piece of paper. Have the students draw a line connecting two words they think “go together,” and use these words in a sentence. This can be done before reading the book or after reading. See the Word Splash Activity at the end of this section.

If the word splash is used **before reading**, have the students review their sentences after reading. If the information in a sentence is correct, label it true. If the information is incorrect, label it false and then correct it. If students cannot tell if a sentence is true or false because the book doesn’t give that information, label the sentence with a ?

If the word splash is used **after reading**, all sentences should reflect the material in the book.

9. The Frayer Model is a graphic organizer that guides students to think more deeply about the meaning of selected vocabulary words. Students list the word and write (1) a definition, (2) facts about the word, (3) examples, and (4) non-examples.

The model looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD:</th>
<th>Definition in your own words</th>
<th>Facts/Characteristics</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Non-examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have students work together to complete a Frayer Model for the following words used in the book: exhibition, shadow box, wonderland.

A blank student handout and directions for making a folded Frayer Model can be found at the West Virginia Department of Education website at [wvde.state.wv.us/strategybank/FrayerModel.html](http://wvde.state.wv.us/strategybank/FrayerModel.html)

10. **How Words and Illustrations Work Together.**
- **From Memories to Shadow Boxes.** The words and illustrations work together to show how Mr. Cornell transformed his memories into shadow boxes that could be shared. Examine the following two-page spreads to show how the words and illustrations work together: a dancer in the snow; blowing bubbles; animals in the museum.

The examples of the spreads are shown below.

Illustrations © Jeanette Winter
For each two-page spread discuss these questions:
(1) What information is provided by the words?
(2) What information is provided by the illustrations?
(3) How does the color of both the words and illustrations affect your understanding?

- **From Dreams, Thoughts, and Ideas to Words.**
  Words and illustrations also work together to show how Mr. Cornell transformed his dreams, thoughts, and ideas into writing. Examine the two-page spread shown at right.
  Discuss the following questions:
  (1) What information is provided by the words?
  (2) What information is provided by the illustrations?
  (3) How do words and illustrations work together to explain how Mr. Cornell filled his journal?

11. Read the Author’s Note at the end of the book. What new information is given about Joseph Cornell? How do you know the author admires him?

Using the information in the book and the Author’s Note, write a caption for each photograph. Explain what the photo shows about Joseph Cornell and his shadow boxes.

**Writing**
CCSS emphasizes writing informative and explanatory text in the early grades. The writing activities below provide experience writing to give an opinion (W.K–3.1), to inform (W.K–3.2), and to explain a sequence of events (W.K–3.3).

12. What is your opinion of this book? Write about these features:
  • Writing: Was it interesting? Easy to understand?
  • Illustrations: Were they interesting to look at? Did they help you understand the words?
  • Did you like learning about Joseph Cornell?
  Give reasons for your opinions. Use words like because, for example, and since.

13. Imagine that you are Joseph Cornell. Explain the steps you take to make your boxes. Draw and write about what you do.

14. Imagine that you were invited to Joseph Cornell’s exhibition of shadow boxes. What would you say to him as you were looking at the boxes? How would he reply? Write a conversation that might have happened if you attended an exhibition of Joseph Cornell’s boxes.

**Extending the Experience of Reading the Book**
15. Read books about other artists:
  • *Henri’s Scissors* by Jeanette Winter
  • *Georgia’s Bones* by Jen Bryant
  • *My Name Is Georgia* by Jeanette Winter
  • *Action Jackson* by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan
  • *Dreamer from the Village: The Story of Marc Chagall* by Michelle Markel
  • *Wanda Gág: The Girl Who Loved to Draw* by Deborah Kogan Ray

16. Read additional books by Jeanette Winter:
  • *Malala, a Brave Girl from Pakistan/Iqbal, a Brave Boy from Pakistan*
  • *Nasreen’s Secret School*
  • *Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia*
  • *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*
  • *Wangari’s Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa*
  • *The Watcher: Jane Goodall’s Life with the Chimps*
  • *Emily Dickinson’s Letters to the World*
  • *Sebastian: A Book about Bach*
**Word Splash Activity**

Draw a line connecting two words you think “go together” and use these words in a sentence. Can you use them all?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Utopia Parkway</th>
<th>backyard</th>
<th>dim light</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>memories</td>
<td>wonderlands</td>
<td>dreams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exhibition</td>
<td>invite</td>
<td>sweets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kitchen</td>
<td>roamed the city</td>
<td>remember</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shadow boxes</td>
<td></td>
<td>upstairs window</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Two brave children from Pakistan—Malala Yousafzai and Iqbal Masih—spoke out against the unjust treatment they were receiving. They defied those who wanted to deny them their basic rights as children. Both received threats to their lives, and yet they continued to speak out. Both were shot. One died and the other, though seriously wounded, lived and continues to speak out against injustice. This book tells the gripping stories of these two children—Malala and Iqbal.

Malala wanted her education. When Taliban fighters insisted that girls should not go to school, she insisted on her right to an education. Again and again, she resisted the Taliban—even as threats turned into deeds and schools were burned and bombed. For speaking out, she was shot, but lived to tell her story to the world. She continues to do so, and in 2014, she was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize.

Iqbal wanted to be free, not forced to work each day in a carpet factory, chained to a loom. Yet since the age of four, when his parents took a twelve-dollar loan from the owner of a carpet factory, he was forced to work all day long to repay this money. It wasn’t until he was ten years old that he learned that bonded slavery of children was illegal. At that time he began to speak out against bonded labor, despite the threats he received. He spoke in carpet factories in Pakistan and even took his message to America. Ultimately, he was shot and killed while riding his bicycle in Pakistan.

This book tells both children’s inspiring stories. Readers see the power of bravery over injustice—how two children stood up to threats and violence to assert their rights. These are stories to remember.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/ACTIVITIES

Key Ideas and Details

The discussion questions and activities below draw on Common Core State Standards for reading informational text (RI) that ask children to ask and answer questions about key details in a text (RI.K–3.1), identify the main topic and key details that support it (RI.K–3.2), and describe the relationship between a series of events, concepts, or ideas (RI.K–3.3).

1. What does it mean to be brave? Both Malala and Iqbal showed that they are brave. Discuss the meaning of this word. Being brave means showing courage. Malala and Iqbal spoke out for what they thought was right, even when it was dangerous to do so. The opposite of being brave is being a coward, someone who is afraid to face danger. Fill in the word map handout at the end of this section to think more about the word brave. This word map can also be used for other words in the book, such as injustice and inspiration.

Note to Teachers and Librarians: To learn more about using word maps, see readingrockets.org/strategies/word_maps

2. Discuss the following questions about Malala.
   • What did the Taliban do to try to prevent the girls in the Swat Valley from going to school?
   • What did Malala do to show that she was not afraid?
   • What happened to Malala because she spoke out?

3. Discuss the following questions about Iqbal.
   • What did the boss of the carpet factory do to Iqbal?
   • What did Iqbal do to show that he was not afraid?
   • What happened to Iqbal because he spoke out?

4. Thinking about the stories of Malala and Iqbal.
   • How are the two stories similar?
   • How are they different?
   • What is important to remember about these stories?

5. Make a Venn diagram to show how stories of Malala and Iqbal are similar and how they are different. Some things to compare are:
   • The injustices they faced
   • What they did that was brave
   • Where they lived
   • What happened to them

Craft and Structure

To learn about craft and structure, the CCSS asks us to help students learn and understand vocabulary words and phrases (RI.K–3.4), think about the features of nonfiction text (RI.K–3.5), and assess the author’s point of view (RI.K–3.6). The questions and activities below emphasize these understandings.
6. After reading the Author’s Note before Malala’s and Iqbal’s stories, discuss the following questions:
   • According to the author, in what ways are the stories of both children similar?
   • What additional information about Malala is given in the Author’s Note that is not in the story?
   • What additional information about Iqbal is given in the Author’s Note that is not in the story?

7. At the top of each Author’s Note, Jeanette Winter wrote: “Two children from Pakistan spoke out against injustice in their world. Their bravery in the face of great danger is an inspiration to all who know their stories. To inspire someone is to fill them with courage and bravery. To inspire someone can also cause a person to have strong feelings. Did Malala and Iqbal’s stories inspire you? How do these stories make you feel?”

8. Post these words on a word wall. After reviewing the meaning of each word or phrase, have students find two words that are connected or related and explain why they go together. Students can do this exercise orally or they can write and illustrate their responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS TO CONNECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>injustice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inspiration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bonded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bravery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taliban fighters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warnings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speak out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outwit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extremists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. On the page behind the title page, the author tells us that when she read about Malala being shot for speaking out for her right to an education, she thought of Iqbal who was also shot for speaking out. The two stories “came together” in her mind. The two-page illustration (shown at right) located between each story shows Malala and Iqbal reaching out to each other. He has let go of his kite, but it seems to be within her reach. Her kite is still flying. Ask students to closely examine this illustration and tell what they notice. Discuss how this illustration connects the two stories.

10. The author includes quotes by both Malala and Iqbal when explaining what happened to them. Tell what you think about each quote. How do these quotes help you understand how Malala and Iqbal were brave and unafraid to speak out? (See Malala/Iqbal Quotes and Thoughts Reproducible Sheet at the end of this section.) Additional quotes from Malala can be found at brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/malala_yousafzai.html

11. Many of the illustrations in the book have kites, but only Iqbal’s story mentions them in words. On the first page he is holding a large kite while his parents are taking a loan of $12 from the carpet factory owner. The words say, “Twelve dollars for a boy’s freedom.” On the second page, this idea is repeated. “No kites here!” the carpet boss bellows, as he pulls Iqbal into the dark factory. Examine other pages in both Iqbal’s and Malala’s stories to see how kites are used to suggest reaching for freedom and speaking out to demand basic rights. How does the kite help you understand the illustration?

**Writing**

CCSS emphasizes writing informative and explanatory text in the early grades. The writing activities below provide experience writing to give an opinion (W.K–3.1), to inform (W.K–3.2), and to explain a sequence of events (W.K–3.3).

12. The author tells us that Malala’s and Iqbal’s stories are an inspiration to everyone who knows them. They spoke up about injustices, and they put themselves in danger. Do you have strong feelings about what happened to Malala and Iqbal? Are these important stories to know? Write your opinion about these stories.

13. **Malala, a Brave Girl.** Imagine that you are one of Malala’s classmates. You know she is a brave girl. You saw the things she did. You heard the things she said. Write about what you saw and heard. Draw some illustrations to show Malala as a brave girl.

14. **Iqbal, a Brave Boy.** Imagine you are one of the children working with Iqbal in the carpet factory. You saw the things he did. You heard the things he said. Write about what you saw and heard. Draw some illustrations to show Iqbal as a brave boy.

**Extending the Experience of Reading the Book**

15. Watch the following videos of Malala:
   • Malala Yousafzai, 16, and Her Miraculous Story of Surviving Being Shot by the Taliban at abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/malala-yousafzai-16-miraculous-story-surviving-shot-taliban-20550177
   • Who is Malala Yousafzai? at cbsnews.com/videos/who-is-malala-yousafzai/
   What new information do the videos provide about Malala?

16. Watch the following video of Iqbal:
   • Freedom Hero: Iqbal Masih at vimeo.com/71446844
   What new information does this video provide about Iqbal?

17. Read additional books about Malala and Iqbal:
   • Malala Yousafzai: Warrior with Words by Karen Leggett Abouraya
   • Dear Malala, We Stand with You by Rosemary McCarney
   • I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Reader’s Edition) by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick
   • Iqbal by Francesco D’Adamo
   • Iqbal Masih and the Crusaders Against Child Slavery by Susan Kuklin

18. Read these other nonfiction picture books by Jeanette Winter:
   • Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia
   • Henri’s Scissors
   • Nasreen’s Secret School
   • Mr. Cornell’s Dream Boxes

Illustrations © Jeanette Winter
Quotes and Thoughts Activity

The author includes quotes by both Malala and Iqbal when explaining what happened to them. Tell what you think about each quote. How do these quotes help you understand how Malala and Iqbal were brave and unafraid to speak out?

Quote from Malala—
“I have the right of education.
I have the right to play.
I have the right to sing.
I have the right to talk.
I have the right to go to market.
I have the right to SPEAK UP.”

My thoughts: ____________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Quote from Iqbal—
“I would like to do what Abraham Lincoln did.
I would like to do it in Pakistan.
I would like to free children in bondage.”

My thoughts: ____________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Word Map Activity
Can you fill in the word map?
The first vocabulary word you can try is **BRAVE**. Your teacher may give you other words to try, too.

1. **Vocabulary Word**

2. (sentence or phrase from the text)

3. (the matching dictionary definition)

4. (synonym)

5. (antonym or “nonexample”)

6. (other forms of the word)

7. (my association, example, or sketch)

8. (my very own sentence)
Praise for Jeanette Winter

**Nasreen’s Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan**
HC: 9781416994374
ebook: 9781442441217

“Winter’s precise acrylics tell this story in matter-of-fact images.”
—The New York Times Book Review

**Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia**
HC: 9781416997788
ebook: 9781442440739

★★ “Both understated and full of life, this satisfying story is a vibrant reminder of the pleasures of books and the difference one individual can make.”
—Booklist, (starred review)

**Henri’s Scissors**
HC: 9781442464841
ebook: 9781442464858

★★ “With a gentle narrative dotted with quotes from the artist himself, luminous illustrations, and a warm, celebratory spirit, this exemplary picture-book biography delivers a clear, sensitive portrait of the whole man, story and soul alike”
—Booklist, (starred review)

**Mr. Cornell’s Dream Boxes**
HC: 9781442499003
ebook: 9781442499027

“Teachers and librarians can use this work to explore a unique contribution at the forefront of modern art; children will be inspired to dream and create on their own.”
—School Library Journal

**Malala: A Brave Girl from Pakistan/ Iqbal: A Brave Boy from Pakistan**
HC: 9781481422949

★★ “Winter, in impressive command of the page with her spare text and calm, rich, digitally rendered art, offers this difficult material unapologetically . . . Brave and heartrending.”
—Kirkus Reviews, (starred review)