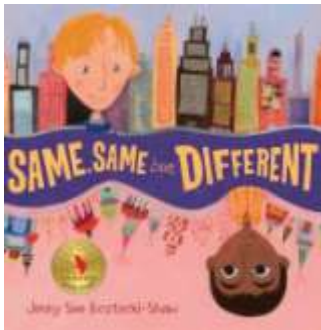




SOUTH ASIA BOOK AWARD
for Children's and Young Adult Literature

Lesson ideas for **Same, Same but Different**

by *Jenny Sue Kosteck-Shaw*



"Elliot lives in America, and Kailash lives in India. They are pen pals. By exchanging letters and pictures, they learn that they both love to climb trees, have pets, and go to school. Their worlds might look different, but they are actually similar. Same, same. But different!"

Write a letter to Kailash

Ask students to write their own letters to Kailash in India. Have them tell him about the city/town in which they live, describe their home; tell about their school (how they travel there and their favorite classes are); and talk about their favorite sports or activities.

Draw your world

Have students make a collage/drawing of their own world/city/house/school in the style of Elliot and Kailash. Discuss how are the students' results different from Kailash's (and from one another).

Home life

Have students list the people that live at their homes (mother, father, sister, brother, etc.) and how many pets/animals they have. Ask them to consider how their home lives are different than Kailash's.

Geography

Find India on a globe/world map and then find the United States. Both countries have very distinctive shapes. Have students make a drawing of each one. Help the students estimate how far away India is. Ask them to identify the oceans and continents that lie between their school and Kailash's home. Have them think about the different kinds of transportation they might use to visit India.

Animals

Have the students go through the book and list all of the different kinds of animals they see. Some animals that run wild in India are found only in zoos or circuses in the United States. Have students try to identify these.

Cuisine

Ask students about their favorite foods. Research (and perhaps sample) some traditional India foods.

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/india/food/>

Greetings

Teach the students the Indian greeting *Namaste* with their hands pressed together and fingers pointed upwards. See if anyone knows how to say hello in any other language.

Say the Hindi alphabet (Devanagari script)

Elliot and Kailash compare their alphabets midway through the book. Speak (and have the students repeat) the Hindi alphabet. What sounds are similar? What are unfamiliar?

क	ka	ख	kha	ग	ga	घ	gha	ङ	ṅa
च	ca	छ	cha	ज	ja	झ	jha	ञ	ña
ट	ṭa	ठ	ṭha	ड	ḍa	ढ	ḍha	ण	ṇa
त	ta	थ	tha	द	da	ध	dha	न	na
प	pa	फ	pha	ब	ba	भ	bha	म	ma
य	ya	र	ra	ल	la	व	va		
श	śa	ष	ṣa	स	sa				
ह	ha								

Here are two online pronunciation guides...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50BPxV3K35E>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyG_594W0jE

Additional activities and ideas

An interactive pop-up illustration by the book's author

<http://dancingelephantstudio.com/visualart/for-kids/>

Further age appropriate lesson ideas for this book from *The Classroom Bookshelf*

<http://classroombookshelf.blogspot.com/2012/01/same-same-but-different.html>