Global Book Bag

**Title:** The Color of Home  
**Author:** Mary Hoffman  
**Grade Levels:** 2-4  
**Global Competence:** Examine the perspectives and influences of others

The goal of this book bag is to help students begin to understand the importance of a cultural perspective in establishing point of view.

*The Color of Home* tells the story of a boy, Hassan, who along with his family, flee from Somalia. In his first days at his new American school, Hassan paints two pictures of his former home. The first painting hints to his homeland and refugee experience. The second picture shows happier memories after he has the opportunity to explain his first picture to his teacher through an interpreter. Through these events, Hassan begins to take his initial steps to making positive new memories in his new home.

**Bag Contents:**

*The Color of Home*  
Composition book  
Pencil and eraser  
Crayons or colored pencils  
Venn Diagram handout  
Laminated map of Africa  
Laminated map of the World (use larger political world map if possible)  
Vis-a-Vis marker

**Directions:**

1. Read *The Color of Home*.

2. As you read the book, write questions in the composition book about Hassan’s thoughts, events, and words you may not understand.

Make sure you leave enough space between your questions so that you can answer them (or maybe someone else can answer them later when they read the book).
3. Using the composition book, draw a picture of your home that you could share with Hassan. Write a caption under the picture to share important information about your home.

4. With an adult’s help, use your home digital device and Internet (or a school computer) to do an Internet search for information about Somalia. Complete a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast information about the United States and Somalia. Write information that is specific to each country in the correct circle. Fill the overlapping center section with information that is the same about both countries.

5. Use the enclosed maps and Vis-à-Vis pen to mark the journey Hassan took to get to his new home in the United States.

6. In the composition book, write about what you could do to help Hassan or someone like him to feel welcome in your classroom or in your neighborhood.

**Extended Learning**

1. Identify some students who are new to your school community. Make a plan for how you might help those students make happy memories in their new home.

2. Discuss what it means to “examine the perspectives and influences of others.”