Global Book Bag

Title: Miss Rumphius
Author: Barbara Cooney
Grade Levels: 1-3

Miss Rumphius tells the story of a young girl who was inspired by her grandfather to travel to faraway places, live by the sea, and make the world more beautiful. As she grows older, she fulfills her goals and shares with children to inspire them to also make this world more beautiful. After reading and discussing the elements of this story, students identify three faraway places they would like to visit and plot those locations on a world map. Students also consider what they can do to make this world more beautiful and share their ideas in writing and drawing in a class journal.

Bag Contents:

Miss Rumphius
World Map
Post-it Notes
Journal

Directions:

1. Read the book, Miss Rumphius, together.

2. Share your favorite parts of the story. Ask, “Why do you think Alice wanted to go to faraway places when she got older?” (Discuss some of the reasons why people travel to places. For example, to experience other climates, see interesting sights, taste different foods, learn from people of a different culture, learn a different language, trace family roots to another country, etc.)

3. Identify three faraway places that you would like to travel to together. Use three Post-it notes and write on each note:
   - Name of location
   - One thing you would see there
   - One thing you would do there

Add these three notes to the correct location on the world map.

4. Ask, “Why do you think Alice’s grandfather told her that she ‘must do something to make the world more beautiful’?” Brainstorm all the ways that people make the world more beautiful. (For example, planting gardens, displaying public art, keeping parks and yards clean, making music, writing poetry, colorful banners, decorated cakes, etc.)

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5. Ask, “How can you make the world more beautiful?” Discuss many ideas that apply to places near and far.

6. Write a response in the journal. Include your name, a written statement on how you can make the world more beautiful, and a picture. Read the entries from classmates as well.

**Extended Learning:**

1. Learn about guerilla gardening by reading the following article about guerilla gardeners in San Diego:


   For background information (some language and concepts are not appropriate for young children), parents/guardians are encouraged to watch the following Ted Talk video about Ron Finley, a guerilla gardener in South Los Angeles, at:


   Discuss the ideas of “seed bombs” and community gardens in places where flowers and fresh food do not exist.

2. Research information about lupines. Determine where and how they grow. Look for information about other flowering plants, which might be suitable for the climate in which you live. What flowering plants are unique to other places around the world?

3. Read *The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever* (Joseph Hopkins) or *Kate Sessions: The Mother of Balboa Park* (Joy Raab) to learn about the horticulturist who brought plants from around the world to San Diego and developed what we see today in Balboa Park.