



Bobby's Books

Book: Miss Rumphius

Possible Themes:

Publisher, Publishing Date and ISBN Number: Viking, 1982, 0-670-47958-6

Author and Illustrator: Barbara Cooney

Recommended Age of Child: 3 to10

Description of Book: Great Aunt Alice Rumphius was once a little girl who loved the sea, longed to visit far away places, and wished to do something to make the world more beautiful.

Quote from Book: “You must do something to make the world more beautiful,” he told her.

Lesson Plan Ideas: The value of this book is to show children that they can make the world beautiful just by being here. It is also an excellent book for showing children the types of “gifts” someone can leave—a legacy. See additional attached lesson plans and information on lupines. I suggest using a lesson plan (or scramble them up and use a few ideas from each one) based on the age of the children you are working with.

- Read the dedication at the beginning of the book. Ask students to suggest possible reasons for this dedication.
- Read the story and now review the reasons for the dedication.
- Talk about whether or not they would want to have Miss Rumphius as a relative. Do they have any relative who reminds them of Miss Rumphius?
- Invite students to interview their parents and grandparents to find out a few family stories.
- Have children write or draw their responses to one or more of these questions: What would you like to do when you grow up? Where would you like to live? What would you like to do to make the world a better place?
- Discuss all of the places Miss Rumphius traveled. Have a globe or world map so children easily see and identify her travel route.

For hands-on activities:

- Have children sort seeds and see if they can identify what flowers will grow from that seed. Have pictures of the flower so they can match up the seeds. This is an excellent diversity activity as well. Discuss how the seed doesn't look like it will grow into something beautiful and how they are all so different.
- Use seeds to create a greeting card or picture. Have kids put glue on a portion of their paper with glue. Sprinkle seed on part of paper that has glue on it. Shake off excess. Repeat the process but with another type of seed.
- Have kids design postcards of where they would like to visit (no travel restrictions!).

Materials: Seeds, paper, glue, writing and drawing supplies, index cards