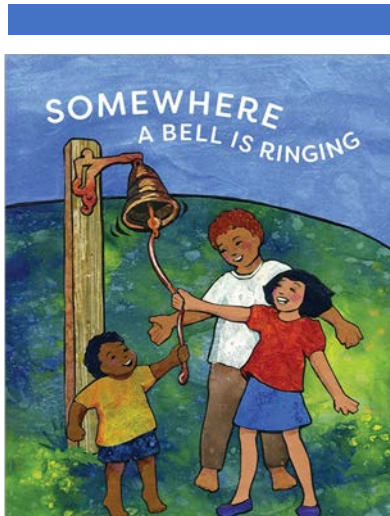


Somewhere A Bell Is Ringing

A Discussion Guide for Grades K-3



ABOUT THE BOOK

Genre: Poetry

Guided Reading Level: L

Grade Level Equivalent: 2

Interest Level by Grade: K-3

With its attention-grabbing, handpainted paper collages and rhyming couplets, ***Somewhere A Bell Is Ringing*** by Barbara Nye asks readers to see themselves as global citizens to remember we're all connected, despite our differences!

With the interconnected and interdependent nature of our world, the global is not 'out there'; it is part of our everyday lives, as we are linked to others on every continent.

Learning Objectives: Read text with purpose and understanding. Compare and contrast. Gain insight into these big questions: Who am I? What is culture? How are people and countries linked? How do local actions have an impact across the globe?

Global Citizenship is an important concept to teach children. We want all students to recognize themselves as global citizens--that we all are somehow interconnected through culture, countries, resources, and ideas, and that we all need to participate in a way that improves the global community.

PRE-READING DISCUSSION POINTS

Who am I?

- How am I the same as others?
- How am I different?
- How should I treat others?
- How can we accept others who may be different from us?
- How can I show respect for others?
- What are my responsibilities to myself and others?
- What are the rewards and consequences of making decisions/choices?

What is culture?

- How does culture shape the way we see the world, others, and ourselves?
- How does culture influence family life?
- How does geography influence how we live?
- How do your beliefs, values, and cultural background influence the way you behave?
- How can you learn to see things from another culture's point of view? Why is it important?
- What is the importance of understanding cultural diversity?
- What qualities make cultures unique?

Somewhere A Bell Is Ringing

A Discussion Guide for Grades K-3



PRE-READING ACTIVITY: *Building Bridges*

1. Ask students to list their most common daily activities (get dressed, drive to school, buy/eat food, and go online).
2. Have them search for “degrees of connectivity” for each activity to people in other parts of the world.
3. What do you think children your age do in other countries around the world?
4. Point to places on a **World Map**.
5. Invite students to share personal examples of how they are connected to other parts of the world and create a chart. For example, my shirt was made in China; my friend has a Facebook friend in Brazil.
6. Discuss that in the 21st century, people are more interconnected than ever before.
7. Ask students how this relates to global citizenship.
8. What is the difference between local VS global citizenship? Indicate that local citizenship creates a bond connecting the people of the same country who already have certain commonalities. Global citizenship creates an important bond between residents of the planet who are already connected in so many ways.
9. Have students write and discuss the following paragraph, which appears under “Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities” on the US Citizenship and Immigration Services website:
“Citizenship is the common thread that connects all Americans. We are a nation bound not by race or religion, but by the shared values of freedom, liberty, and equality.”
10. Are there values that bind us as global citizens?
11. Write the responses on the board, and emphasize those that refer to global rights, responsibilities, and participation.

POST-READING DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Who is *Somewhere A Bell Is Ringing* story about?
2. Where does the story take place? (setting)
3. How does the setting change throughout the book?
4. Compare and contrast the different settings.
5. Think about each setting and the characters. Where could “somewhere” be?
6. What are the characters in the story doing?
7. How are they alike and different from you?
8. How does geography influence how people in the story live?
9. How do the illustrations contribute to the meaning of the text?
10. What type of illustrations does Barbara Nye create? (collage)
11. How does Barbara Nye use vivid language to create imagery? Find examples from the story.
12. How does she use figurative language to enhance meaning and tone?
13. Describe the overall structure of the story. How does the beginning introduce the story and how does the ending conclude the action?
14. Why do you think the child has an atlas and a globe in their bedroom?

Somewhere A Bell Is Ringing

A Discussion Guide for Grades K-3



15. What are the central messages or themes in the story?
16. How are the themes of cultural diversity & global interconnectedness conveyed through the words and illustrations?
17. What can the themes of Somewhere a Bell is Ringing teach you about your own life?
18. Why do you think Barbara Nye wrote this book? What was her purpose and what did she want to convey?

MULTICULTURAL ART CONNECTION

What Is Collage?

“Collage” comes from the French word “*Coller*,” which means “to glue.”

In collage, artists cut and paste different materials to create a picture.

ACTIVITY: Find materials; ribbons, magazine pictures, wallpaper, handmade papers, clippings, photographs, etc. Create a collage with the theme “I Dig Diversity.”

Write About It!

How do the art form of collage and the themes of diversity and interconnectedness relate?

What is the “glue” and what are the “pieces” in a global community?

MAKING CONNECTIONS: TEXT-TO-SELF & TEXT-TO-WORLD

- Who is a global citizen?
- Does he/she have certain skills, qualities, and/or attributes?
- What does a global citizen care about?
- What is a global citizen’s responsibility?
- How can one become a global citizen?
- How are people around the world alike?
- How are they different? (diversity)
- What is your attitude toward people who are different?
- How are we interconnected?
- What are basic human rights?

Did You Know?

The U.S. Fund for UNICEF defines a “global citizen” as someone who understands interconnectedness, respects and values diversity, has the ability to challenge injustice, and takes action in personally meaningful ways.

- What is social justice? **All people have the same basics needs!**
- What responsibilities do I have as a global citizen to people within and outside the borders of my own country, and to the planet?
- What can I do as an individual in my day-to-day life to make a difference?

Write About It!

What have you personally taken away or learned from this book and discussion?
Why is it important to understand and appreciate differences among people and cultures?