

Research Activity - Celebrating Differences!

Cultures/Nationalities Represented in the Exhibition:

Austria – *Little Carly*

Iran – *The Beautiful Pond; The Bird of Good Omen; The Teacher and the Painter; The Song Village*

Israel – *My Father Makes Me Feel Embarrassed*

Mongolia – *The Boy Who Sees Things in a Different Way*

Phillipines – *Magnificent Benito and His Two Front Teeth; A Dozen Brothers; The Legend of the Bitter Gourd*

Portugal – *Little Fluff and His Brothers*

Sri Lanka – *Finbo*

United States – *A Cool Kid-Like Me!*

Activity: Assign students to groups and assign each group one of the cultures/nationalities represented by the books in the exhibition. Have the students research the culture/nationality they are assigned. Involve the library media specialist so she can gather resources for the students. Have each group report back to the class describing the culture. After they report, have a read-aloud of one of the books written in that culture.

Suggestions for Younger Students: Have students answer factual questions about the assigned culture/nationality. Sample Questions:

Where is this nation located?

What is the primary language of the nation?

What ethnicities and religions are represented by this culture?

What type of climate does the nation have?

What are some native foods to this nation/culture?

Suggestions for Older Students: Have the students the questions above for younger students, as well as have them do more research and critical thinking about the culture.

Sample Criteria/Questions:

Give a brief history of the nation/culture. What are the origins of this culture? How has it developed over time? Name and describe the historical milestones?

What are current issues of concern in this nation/culture?

Research the culture(s) of the nation. What are the key aspects of the culture? What are some key societal characteristics?

How do the book(s) in the exhibition reflect what you have learned about the nation/culture?