

Journey Books

September Theme

You are what you read: cultural, personal and local identity

2008

National Year
OF READING


Geographical
Association

Don't neglect the wealth of fantastic picture books available if you are exploring this month's Year of Reading theme with your pupils. Visits and journeys are richly conveyed and offer virtual trips to places near and far, as well as models for our writing competition, where children can share their sense of their own locality and/or other places they have been to.

Rosie's Walk

Pat Hutchins

Red Fox (2001)

EAN: 9780099413998



First published in 1968 this is surely one of the most famous journeys in the whole of contemporary children's literature, no less great for being set in a farmyard and completely wordless.

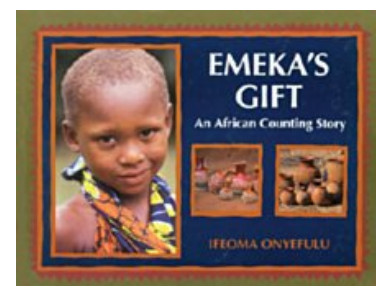
Young children can create their own journeys around school on this model. See [this example](#) from Anns Grove Community Primary School, Sheffield.

Emeka's Gift An African Counting Story

Ifeoma Onyefulu

Frances Lincoln (1995)

ISBN: 9780711212558



Emeka, who lives in a village called Ibaji in southern Nigeria, sets off to walk to visit his grandmother in the next village.

He would like to buy her a special present and on his journey he looks at all kinds of things, from six beautiful beaded necklaces to nine pestles and mortars. He worries about which present to buy for her, then realises that, without money, he can't buy her anything!

Read the book to discover how his journey ends, and experience Emeka's locality through his eyes.

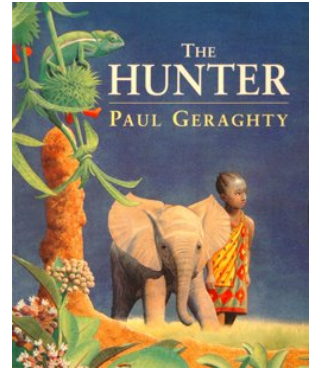
The Hunter

Paul Geraghty

Red Fox (1996)

ISBN: 978-0099666318

Explore the locality where Jamina lives as she plays at being a hunter, shooting an elephant, tracking a rhino, stalking a pride of lions. Then she hears a sound so sad and forlorn that she thinks her heart will break.



When Jamina discovers the source of the noise, she begins a journey, both physical and spiritual, that leads to a new knowledge of herself and the world around her.

'Moving... Paul Geraghty's artwork will take your breath away' - *Michael Rosen, in Radio Times*

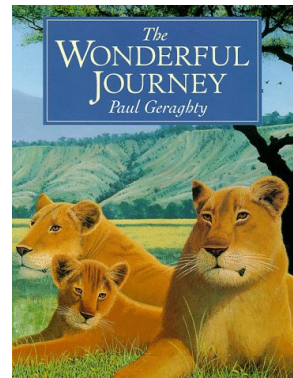
The Wonderful Journey

Paul Geraghty

Red Fox (2000)

ISBN: 9780099404965

A poignant and emotionally reassuring story about a departing grandmother who, through her vividly imagined journey back to the plains of Africa where she was born, gives hope and encouragement to her grandchild.



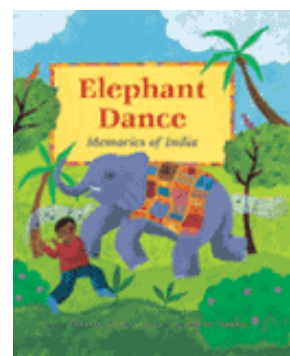
Elephant Dance A Journey to India

Theresa Heine (Illus. Sheila Moxley)

Barefoot Books (2004)

ISBN: 9781841489179

Here, grandfather has made the journey from India to visit his family (in multi-cultural Britain?). Ravi makes a 'virtual' journey, experiencing his grandfather's world in his imagination as the old man answers his questions.



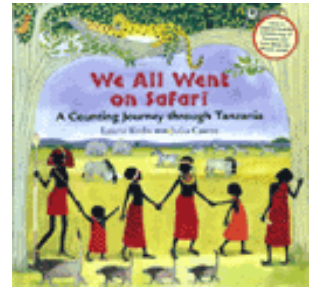
The illustrations are beautifully organised to show the two, hand-in-hand, exploring the two equally 'real' worlds together, swapping the rôles of *guide* and *guided*. The language is inspiring, too.

We All Went on Safari A Counting Journey Through Tanzania

Laurie Krebs (Illus. Julia Cairns)

Barefoot Books (2003)

ISBN: 9781841484785



Join Arusha, Mosi, Tumpe and their Maasai friends as they set out on a counting journey through the grasslands of Tanzania. Along the way, the children encounter all sorts of animals including elephants, lions and monkeys, while counting from one to ten in both English and Swahili. The lively, rhyming text is accompanied by an illustrated guide to counting in Swahili, a map, notes about each of the animals, and interesting facts about Tanzania and the Maasai people.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each book will be donated to the African Wildlife Foundation, to aid their wildlife conservation and community building efforts in Tanzania.

Barefoot Books have produced this [Activity Sheet](#) to accompany the book.

Katie Morag Delivers The Mail

Mairi Hedderwick

Red Fox (1997)

EAN: 9780099220725



Katie Morag's mum's fed up. The baby's teething and everyone's getting under her feet. It's time for Katie Morag to be a big girl and help out. Thank goodness Granny Island's around when it all goes horribly wrong...

Katie's muddled journey can be tracked on this [map of Struay](#) or in **The Big Katie Morag Storybook**, Red Fox (2000). Play the mail delivery board game in **Katie Morag's Rainy Day Book**, Red Fox (2001).

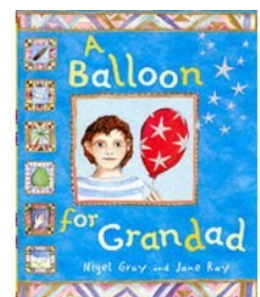
See also **The Second Katie Morag Storybook**, (Katie's journey with her father to **The Hermit's Hut**) in which Uncle Matthew's hut is shown on a map at the top of a double-page spread, and again in an oblique pictorial view at the bottom – a gem!

A Balloon for Grandad

Nigel Gray (Illus. Jane Ray)

Orchard (1994)

ISBN: 9781843621027



When Sam loses his balloon to the wind, he and his dad imagine its journey over the mountains, over the sea, over the desert to his Grandad Abdullah's home on an island in the Nile in the north of Sudan. Jane Ray paints beautiful balloon's eye views.

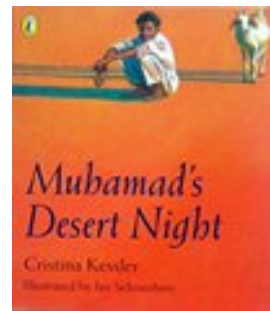
Muhamad's Desert Night

Cristina Kessler (Illus. Ian Schoenherr)

Puffin (1997)

ISBN: 9780140563368

Muhamad is a Tuareg boy, who takes his father's goats to forage in the desert each day and becomes a man when he has spent his first night alone in the Sahara. The poetry of his connectedness with his desert home challenges western assumptions about what it means to be 'wealthy', and vividly evokes yet another living locality for young readers.



Shanyi Goes to China

Sungwan So

Frances Lincoln (2006)

ISBN: 978-1845074708

The author uses his own photographs to illustrate his telling of their family visit to relatives in China from his daughter's point of view.



This is one of a series describing children travelling to experience their family roots. Other countries visited are Brazil, India, Trinidad and Nigeria.

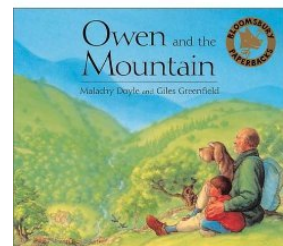
'The range of photographs is full of interest, capturing the experience of a genuine visit, along with the excitement of seeing new sights and of a family reunion' - *Books for Keeps*

Owen and the Mountain

Malachy Doyle and Giles Greenfield

Bloomsbury Children's Books (2000)

ISBN: 9780747550938



Don't Forget to Write

Martina Selway

Red Fox (1991)

ISBN: 9780099206811

Two very different picture books, equally strong in conveying a sense of place, show grandparents sharing their places with visiting grandchildren from more urban environments. The localities shown are both British rural, one mountainous, one a hill farm. The contrasting methods of telling the story are fun too!

