

Realistic
Fiction

Sharing Cultures

by Christopher Herrera
illustrated by Laura Jacobsen



Mc
Graw
Hill

PAIRED
READ

Music Around the World

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Visualize

Skill: Compare and Contrast

Phonics

Long *r*-controlled vowels:

/ôr/ or, ore, oar; /ärl/ ar

Vocabulary Strategy

Similes

Vocabulary

common, costume(s),
customs, favorite,
parade(s), surrounded,
travels, wonder

Content Standards Social Studies

Culture and Diversity

Word count: 465**

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Essential Question

How are kids around the world different?

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CHAPTER 1

Mrs. Gupta



Mrs. Gupta's class is surprised. They wonder why their teacher is dressed like she is.

"Good morning, class! We are going to learn about each other's customs. I'll go first," says Mrs. Gupta.

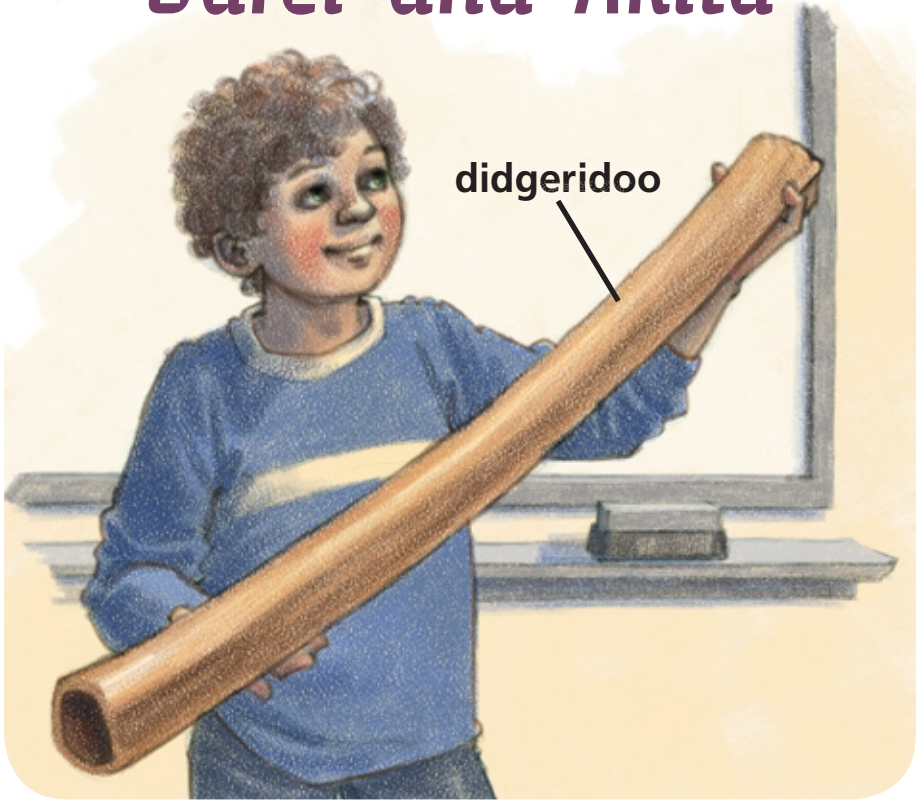
“I am wearing a sari. My family is from India. Many women wear saris there. Indians also eat dosa for breakfast. They are rice pancakes. I have some for you,” says Mrs. Gupta.



STOP AND CHECK

What are some Indian customs?

Darel and Akita



didgeridoo

The next day it is Darel's turn. He shares a custom. "My family is from Australia. People play this instrument there," Darel says. "My dad chirps like a bird when he plays it. That sounds funny! But I like to listen."

The class wonders how to play it. Darel shows them. He says, "I'll play a CD. You can hear what it sounds like."

"That's cool," thinks Alex. "But I don't have an instrument to share."





Akita tells the class about her family. Some of them live in Japan. "They give these dolls to people at New Year's," says Akita.

“People color in one eye when they get this doll,” Akita continues. “Then they make a wish. Suppose it comes true. Then they color in the other eye.”

“Akita has given me a great idea!” thinks Alex.



STOP AND CHECK

What are some customs in Australia and Japan?

Awo and Anton



Oware

Awo says, "I am from Ghana, Africa. We play a game called Oware. We play with stones. We use this wooden board."



Awo picks two people to play.
“We have to pick up all the
stones in a certain order. The
first player who does that wins.”



“My father is from Russia,” says Anton. “During the Winter Festival, his family went to the park. They were surrounded by many brightly lit trees. My father and his friends went sledding.”

“Some people danced for the crowd,” says Anton. “They wore colorful dress.” Anton picks some children from the class. He shows them how to do a Russian dance.



STOP AND CHECK

What are some customs in Ghana and Russia?

CHAPTER 4

Benita and Alex



Benita is dressed in a Carnival costume. She looks like a mermaid.

“My mother’s family is from Brazil. Carnival is a favorite holiday there,” says Benita.

“We went to Carnival last year. People were dressed up in costumes. They were part of a parade. The parade travels through the city,” says Benita.



Finally it is Alex's turn.

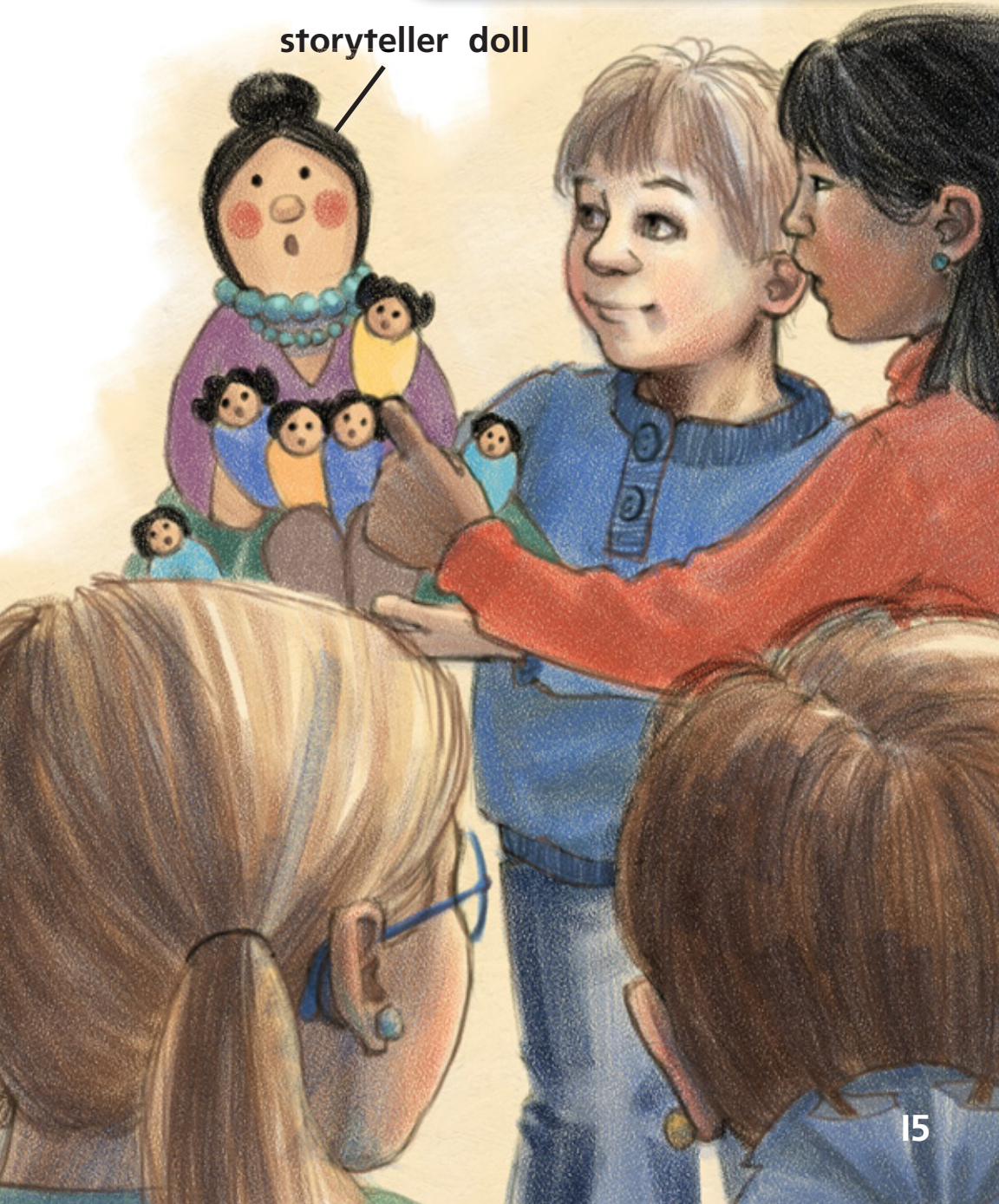
"I am Native American," shares Alex. "My grandmother gave me this storyteller doll. See? This woman has many children. They are sitting on her lap. They are listening to her stories. Stories are important to my people. They are how we pass down our customs."



STOP AND CHECK

What is a custom that Akita and Alex share?

storyteller doll



Respond to Reading

Summarize

Use the chart to summarize *Sharing Cultures*.

| | Russia | Brazil |
|---------|--------|--------|
| holiday | | |
| custom | | |

Text Evidence

1. Is *Sharing Cultures* fiction or nonfiction? Why? **Genre**
2. How do Alex's feelings change in this story? **Compare and Contrast**
3. What is Darel's dad compared to on page 4? **Similes**
4. Write about two customs in this story. **Write About Reading**

Compare Texts

What are customs in different parts of the world?

Music Around the World

Darel shared an Australian instrument. Let's look at some other instruments around the world.



You blow air through your closed lips to play a didgeridoo.

In Africa people play thumb pianos. The player holds the wooden box. He uses his thumb to pluck the blades.

An African thumb piano is also called a *kalimba*.



Dorling Kindersley/Getty Images, Illustration: Rob Schuster

Trinidad
and Tobago

steelpan

Africa

thumb piano

Australia

didgeridoo

The steelpan is a common instrument in Trinidad and Tobago. People use a pair of sticks to play steelpans.



Steelpans are made from steel drums.



Make Connections

How could kids play music in different countries? **Essential Question**
Look at both selections. What are two customs in Africa? **Text to Text**

Focus on Literary Elements

Characters Characters are the people in a story.

What to Look for Look at what the characters say in *Sharing Cultures*. Look at what they do. This shows what they are like. See how the characters are alike and different.

Your Turn

Think of two characters. They can be characters from another country. How are they alike? How are they different? Write sentences about your characters.

Thinkmark

Characters

Who are the characters in *Sharing Cultures*?

Author's Purpose

What is the author's purpose for writing *Sharing Cultures*?

Sequence of Events

What happened **first**, **next**, **then**, and **finally** in *Sharing Cultures*?

Conclusions

What conclusions can you draw about how children around the world are different?