

# INDEPENDENT READING UNIT: SEARCHING FOR KOREAN CULTURE

**GRADE LEVEL:** Seven

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**SUBJECT:** Language Arts (collaborating with seventh grade Global Studies)

## **BOOKS:**

- *Year of Impossible Goodbyes* by Sook Nyul Choi. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1991.
- *Echoes of the White Giraffe* by Sook Nyul Choi. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1993.
- *The Long Season of Rain* by Helen Kim. Henry Holt & Company: 1st ed (1996).
- *Love in Winter* by Kim Yong Ik. Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1969.
- *I Am the Clay* by Chaim Potok. Bt Bound (1999).
- *One Thousand Chestnut Trees* by Mira Stout. Riverhead Hardcover (1998).

These books provide opportunities for students of all reading levels, from easy books through more difficult books such as *Ten Thousand Chestnut Trees*.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. This is a three week unit where students will develop a deeper understanding of Korean culture, which they have studied in Global Studies, by finding examples of different aspects of the culture in the books they have read.
2. During this unit, I will put artifacts which I brought back from Korea on the bulletin board and around the room.

## **SCHEDULE:**

Day One: Review basic aspects of Korean culture:

- a. Religion
- b. Family structure and relationships
- c. Values
- d. Effects of occupation
- e. Effects of war
- f. Customs
- g. Food
- h. Leisure/recreation/fun

Students are divided into eight groups. Each group is given a poster board with a heading from the previous list. In ten minutes, the groups are to write words on the poster board that tell about that topic. Each group then reports to the class with teachers making additions and comments. The posters are then displayed around the classroom for future reference during reading.

Day 2: Teacher talks about each book. Students are given an opportunity to look at the books and then write on a note card their first, second and third choices.

Day 3: Teacher assigns books and explains plans for the unit:

- a. Students are given study guides.

b. Students are given bookmarks, which provide a place for them to write questions about their reading. They are required to write at least three questions each week which would be interesting to discuss. In class previously, students have studied and practiced forming inferential questions which lead to a deeper understanding of literature.

c. Most class periods, students will read books independently. The final ten minutes of each class period, students will explain their books to partners who are reading other books. On Wednesday of each week, students will meet in groups with students who are reading the same book. They will discuss at least one question per student that they have written during the previous week. On the back of each student's question book mark, he/she will write the answer to the question that the group came up with and hand the bookmark in. Students will then work together to fill out their study guides.

### **EVALUATION:**

At the end of the three weeks of reading, students will take an essay test.

Each group will prepare a presentation for the class on their book. They are required to make a visual to show during their presentation. This visual can range from a poster to a PowerPoint presentation.

Read the World  
Korea and Its Culture  
Study Guide

Name\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Book\_\_\_\_\_Author\_\_\_\_\_

Publisher\_\_\_\_\_Copyright Date\_\_\_\_\_#of pages\_\_\_\_\_

List three interesting facts about the author:

1.

2.

3.

What Happens?

As you read the story, complete this chart summarizing the important things that happen to the characters in your book.

Somebody:

List the main characters

Wants to:

Goal

But:

Conflicts? Obstacles? List three to four different problems your characters faced.

So:

Ending/Resolution

Korean Culture

Give examples from the book on each aspect of Korean culture. Be sure to add the page number where you found the example.

- a. Religion
- b. Family structure and relationships
- c. Values
- d. Occupation
- e. Effects of war/occupation
- f. Customs
- g. Food
- h. Leisure/recreation/fun

#### Read the World

#### Korea and Its Culture

#### Essay Test

On this sheet, write an essay in which you compare and contrast your culture to Korean culture. First describe five things that are similar about your culture and Korean culture. Then explain five things that are different between your culture and Korean culture.

Write about what surprised you most about Korean culture. Write about what you think it would be like for you to move to Korea. What would be your favorite thing about Korean culture?

What do you think would be the hardest part of the new culture for you to get used to? Be very specific. Please use the back. Write as much as you can.