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Isabella: Girl on the Go

A Common Core State Standards-aligned Guide

Grades K–2

Pre-Reading Questions & Activities

In this book, Isabella pretends she is exploring different significant landmarks around the world. What are some significant landmarks in the United States?

Do a picture book walk-through. Before you read the book to the class, have them closely examine the illustrations on each page. Discuss what is happening. Have students identify illustration details and explain what the details tell them about the story's characters, settings, and events.

Look at the cover of the book. Building on what you know from reading *My Name Is Not Isabella*, what do you think this book will be about?

Vocabulary

In this book, students will encounter the following professions and landmarks. Using the information provided in the back of the book, acquaint the class with the following professions and places:

Archaeologist	Pyramids of Giza
Artist	Eiffel Tower
Warrior	Great Wall of China
Astronomer	Chichen Itza
Queen	Big Ben
Defender	Statue of Liberty
Taj Mahal	CN Tower

Discussion Questions & Activities

Where in the World Is Isabella Now?

The setting of this story is Isabella's backyard. Each real feature in her yard reminds her of a landmark. Using her imagination, she travels around the globe visiting famous places. What place in her yard becomes each landmark? How are these appropriate?

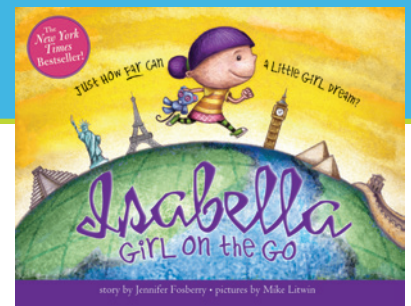
RLK.1, RL1.1, RL2.1, RL1.2, RL2.2, RLK.3, RLK.7, RL1.7, RL2.7, SLK.1, SL1.1, SL2.1, SLK.2

Have students complete these sentences:

- The Pyramids of Giza are actually...
- The Eiffel Tower is actually...
- The Great Wall of China is actually...
- The Pyramid of Chichen Itza is actually...
- The Pendulum on Big Ben is actually...
- Lady Liberty is actually...



Continued...



Discussion Questions & Activities Cont....

Can You Find...

Throughout this book, scenes of Isabella's imagination alternate with scenes of the real world. What elements of the real world become part of her imaginary one (e.g., Isabella's bucket and beach ball are shown in her sandbox and then show up when she's an archaeologist exploring the pyramids)?

RLK.1, RL1.1, RL2.1, RLK.7, RL1.7, RL2.7

Other Places You'll Go

Working in pairs, have students identify something at school or on the playground and imagine it as a famous landmark, building, or attraction somewhere in the world. In the story, Isabella adopts a specific profession appropriate to each setting. Have students select a profession appropriate to their imaginary landmark. Have each student make a drawing of the place in the real world and then in the world of imagination. Share all the ideas and illustrations with the entire class.

SLK.1, SL1.1, SL2.1, SLK1.4, SLK.5, SL1.5, SL2.5

What's My Line

Isabella adopts a specific profession for each place she explores. As a class, review the definitions of these professions in the back of the book, and have each student choose one and illustrate what it means to be one of these. What other famous place would one visit as each of these professions?

RLK.1, RL1.1, RL2.1, LK.4, L1.4, L2.4, LK.5, L1.5, L2.5

Archaeologist	Artist
Warrior	Astronomer
Queen	Defender

Wordplay

As Isabella selects new locations and new professions, her father addresses her with different names (e.g., Isabella declares she is an artist, and her father calls her "*ma petite artiste*"). Discuss the meaning of these different nicknames. How do they apply to the role she has adopted? Can you use each one in a sentence?

RLK.1, RL1.1, RL2.1, RLK.4, RL1.4, RL2.4, LK.5, L1.5, L2.5, LK.6, L1.6, L2.6

What's a Pun?

Puns are a traditional form of wordplay and rhetoric. Describe what a pun is to the class. The father responds to Isabella with many puns. As a class, list the puns found in this book. What do they mean? Break students into small groups. Have them use the library and the Internet to look for other examples of puns. Have each group choose their favorite to share with the rest of the class.

Bonus: Can you think of your own original pun?

RLK.1, RL1.1, RL2.1, RLK.4, RL1.4, RL2.4, LK.5, L1.5, L2.5, LK.6, L1.6, L2.6

