

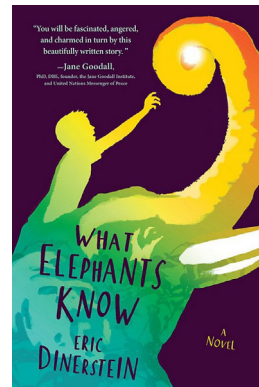
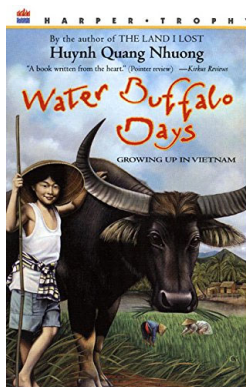


SOUTH ASIA BOOK AWARD
for Children's and Young Adult Literature

**Teaching resources and lesson/activity ideas for
Using Chapter Books Set in Asian Countries for Literature Circles**

Titles:

- *Outside In* by Jennifer Bradbury—Set in India
- *Water Buffalo Days: Growing Up In Vietnam* by Huynh Quang Nhuong—Set in Vietnam
- *What Elephants Know* by Eric Dinerstein—Set in Nepal



Subject: ELA: Literature Circles

Grades: 5th-8th

TEKS: 5.1.D, 6.1.D, 7.1.D, 8.1.D, 5.6.A-I, 6.6.A-I, 7.6.A-I, and 8.6.A-I

Estimated time: If your students are used to Literature Circles, you spend less time teaching them structure and roles. If your students are familiar with Literature Circles, then it depends on how long they take to read the chapter book they choose. 40-50 minutes per session.

Materials: 4 to 5 copies of each book, Reader's Notebooks, pencils, copies of responsibilities for each role.

Pre-requisite knowledge: If you already do literature circles, you will have your resources for role responsibilities. If you would like to learn about literature circles, a helpful and detailed lesson plan with links to all resources needed can be found at:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/literature-circles-getting-started-19.html>

Motivation: Let your students know a bit about each book to see which book they would like to read:

<i>Outside In</i> is historical fiction	Summary: Ram is an orphaned street kid living in India. He meets Nek Chand, a bicycle factory worker who is also a talented artist. However, Chand keeps all of his art a secret (Nek Chand really was a famed folk artist in India).	Themes: friendship, recycled art, community, bullying, Indian mythology, homelessness
<i>Water Buffalo Days</i> is a memoir	Summary: Nhuong relates all the wonderful adventures he had with his “pet” and best friend, Tank, a water buffalo. There is a lot of action in this book and a reverence for nature and animals. Students will learn interesting facts about growing up in a rural Vietnamese village.	Themes: nature, family, friendship, community
<i>What Elephants Know</i> is fiction	Summary: Nandu is an orphan who was left in a jungle. He is found by some wild dogs that protect him until a highly intelligent and brave elephant, Devi Kali, becomes his “mother.” Nandu then goes to live at an elephant stable and has many amazing adventures with his beloved elephant.	Themes: family, community, nature, elephants, problem-solving, perseverance

Activities and procedures: Students choose a book to read with their Literature Circle team. Teacher can give them a deadline to finish their chapter book.

Assessment: Students can use the self-reflection resource found in the above mentioned website, and turn it in to teacher, or teacher can have students do a culminating project to share out what they learned, thought about, and discussed as they read their book (slideshow, prezi presentation, poster, etc.)

Follow-up and Enrichment activities: Students may want to learn more about the countries of India, Nepal, or Vietnam. Students may want to do research on Nek Chand and look at his art online. www.nekchand.com offers virtual tours of Chand's sculpture garden. Artistic students might want to make their own art using recycled materials and items.

Students may want to do more research on elephants and efforts to protect elephants.