



TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES K-3

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

Miss Rumphius

Barbara Cooney



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Miss Rumphius

Barbara Cooney

TEACHER GUIDE

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Skills and Strategies

Comprehension

Predicting,
comparison/contrast

Thinking

Brainstorming

Vocabulary

Geographic nicknames

Listening/Speaking

Discussion

Literary Elements

Characterization, story
elements

Writing

Travel log

Summary

The story traces the life of Miss Alice Rumphius. It takes the reader from the time on her Grandfather's knee, where she shapes her life's dreams of travel to faraway places and life beside the sea as she gets older, to the fulfillment of the admonition of her Grandfather to "do something to make the world more beautiful."

About the Author

Barbara Cooney was born August 6, 1917, in Brooklyn, New York. She attended Briarcliff School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Smith College in 1938. Since that time, she has been a free lance author and illustrator, with a hiatus during World War II, when she joined the Women's Army Corp. Her home and office are currently in Pepperell, Massachusetts.

Cooney is the winner of several awards, both for her writing and illustrations. Among them are: the Caldecott Award in 1959 for *Chanticleer and the Fox*, which she wrote and illustrated; the Caldecott Award in 1980, for the illustrations in *The Ox Cart Man*; and the American Book Award in 1983 for *Miss Rumphius*, which she wrote and illustrated.

Initiating Activities

You may choose to do one of these activities before reading the story, and the other activities after the story has been read. However, they are appropriate at any time.

1. **Travel:** Obtain several travel brochures from local travel agents, and travel posters from airlines and cruise lines. Hang up the posters around the room and have the brochures in the area.

Make banners, such as:

- Travel Now!
- Faraway Places On Sale!

Play a record or tape of the song "Faraway Places," or something similar. (Capital Cassette, *Margaret Whiting's Greatest Hits*)

Ask the children to think about faraway places. Where would each one of them like to go? Make a list of these places and locate them on a map.

Using Predictions in the Novel Unit Approach

We all make predictions as we read—little guesses about what will happen next, how a conflict will be resolved, which details will be important to the plot, which details will help fill in our sense of a character. Students should be encouraged to predict, to make sensible guesses as they read the novel.

As students work on their predictions, these discussion questions can be used to guide them: What are some of the ways to predict? What is the process of a sophisticated reader's thinking and predicting? What clues does an author give to help us make predictions? Why are some predictions more likely to be accurate than others?

Create a chart for recording predictions. This could be either an individual or class activity. As each subsequent chapter is discussed, students can review and correct their previous predictions about plot and characters as necessary.

Use the facts and ideas the author gives.

Use your own prior knowledge.

Apply any new information (i.e., from class discussion) that may cause you to change your mind.

Predictions:

Center Activity

Miss Rumphius's Art Activity Two

Dyed Flowers

To create dyed flowers you will need:

- Newspapers
- Paint shirts
- Food coloring
- Containers, such as margarine tubs, for the coloring
- Round coffee filters

1. Put the newspapers down on a flat surface.
2. Mix some food coloring into water in the containers. Have the children wear paint shirts when doing this activity.
3. Fold a coffee filter repeatedly until it resembles a small cone.
4. Quickly dip the filter into a color of choice and remove it. The color will then spread over a portion of the filter.
5. Turn the filter and repeat the procedure on its side, and then on its top.
6. Carefully open the filter and place it on the newspapers to dry. This will be the "bloom" of the flower.

When the filter is dry, a stem and leaves may be made from the colored paper.