



The Booklist Project



Focus: Culture-Specific Booklist

Italian

Developed by: Heather Bruneau

Fall, 2011

BOOK LIST PROJECT



ITALY GRADES K-3



HEATHER BRUNEAU

Fleming, C. (2001) *Gabriella's song*. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks.
[ISBN: 0-689-84175-2]

DRA level: 28
Interest level: K-2
WIDA level: Developing/Expanding

In this story, Gabriella walks the streets of Venice humming the tune she hears in air. The tune soon reaches the ears and lips of the baker, the widow, the gondolier, and finally the famous composer Giuseppe Del Pietro who turns Gabriella's tune into a symphony.

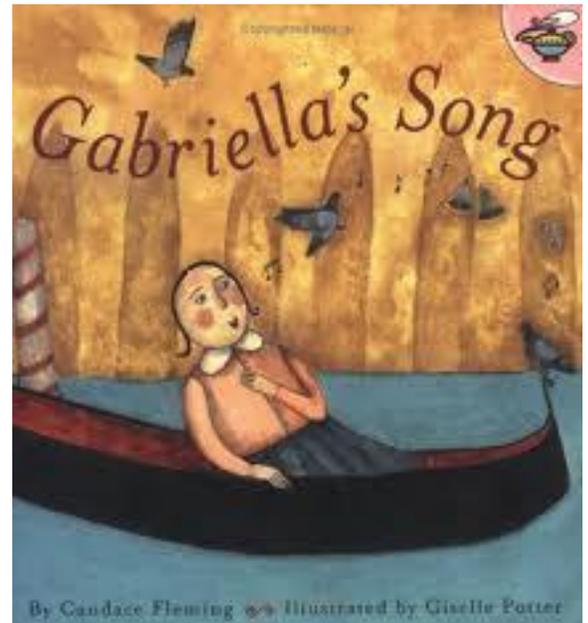
This book portrays the importance of music in Venice, Italy while captivating the reader with pictures that illuminate the essence of life along the Grand Canal. Italian exclamations such as "amore mio", "bellissima", "bravissimo", and "grazie" are used throughout the text along with authentic Italian names, bringing the culture and the language of Italy to life. ELLs could relate to the culture presented in this book, which is so unique to Italy.

Also available in hardcover [ISBN: 0-689-80973-5]

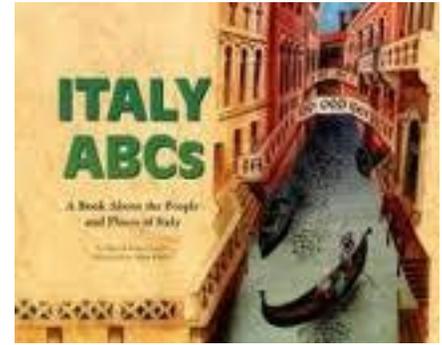
Additional Resources

www.candaceflemming.com

The author's website provides a teaching guide for *Gabriella's Song*. Information about other historical pictures books written by the author is also available.



Cooper, S.K. (2006) *Italy ABCs: A book about the people and places of Italy*. Minneapolis: Picture Window Books.
[ISBN: 1-4048-1569-4]



DRA level: 28+ (content vocabulary is challenging)
Interest level: grades 1-3
WIDA level: Expanding

This book takes readers on an alphabetical journey through Italy. Each page explains aspects of the history and culture of the country. Students learn about famous people such as Julius Caesar and Leonardo da Vinci, and plants such as olives and grapes. The geography and architecture of Italy are explained through descriptions and illustrations of The Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Coliseum, and Mount Etna. Readers learn about the influence of artists such as Michelangelo, Sandro Botticelli, and Raphael. Each page has up to three sentences to explain a topic in general terms, with a fast fact that offers more detailed information. This book would benefit ELLs who have studied the history and culture of Italy by providing vocabulary to help them communicate their knowledge in English.

Additional Resources

www.einaudi.cornell.edu/europe/outreach/pdf/brosch/Italy.ppt

This is a very simple power point that could be used to help an ELL from Italy begin to talk about his/her native country. It could also be used to begin a social studies unit about Italy.

www.kidport.com/RefLib/WorldGeography/Italy/Italy.htm

This website is appropriate for children and gives a simple explanation of geographic landmarks, points of interest, climate, population and culture about Italy and other countries around the world.

www.travelforkids.com/Funtodo/Italy/italy.htm

This website uses both pictures and words to describe exciting experiences for children in each of Italy's major cities. ELLs can have many experiences that they are not able to communicate. This website could help these students describe the places they've been and the things they've done.

<http://www.pocanticohills.org/italy/italy.htm>

This website is designed for children. It gives very basic information about many elements of Italian culture. There are also games, puzzles, and quizzes for children to complete based on the information presented on the website.

<http://library.thinkquest.org/CRO212302/italy.html>

This website was designed by fourth and fifth graders for the ThinkQuestUSA website. It promotes acceptance of other cultures. The tab called "A kid's life in..." provides readers with information about what it is like to be a child living in a different country. Students can learn what it's like to live in Italy, as well as many other countries including Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and more.

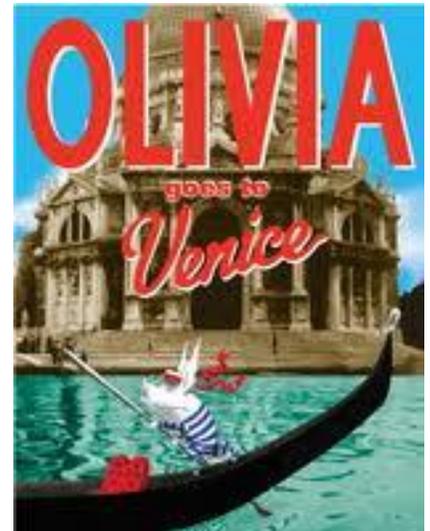
<http://www.timeforkids.com/destination/italy>

This section of Time For Kids helps children connect to Italian culture by learning basic Italian words, learning about the geography, and reading about the daily life of a girl living in Italy.

Falconer, I. (2010) *Olivia goes to Venice*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.
[ISBN: 978-I-4I69-9674-3]

DRA level: 24
Interest level: PreK-2
WIDA level: Developing

The famous Olivia makes her mark on Venice. While there, she visits the Piazza San Marco and rides a gondola down the Grand Canal, which brings her under the Rialto Bridge and the Bridge of Sighs. As a true tourist, Olivia makes her way through the city eating one gelato after another. Young readers will find this book amusing while ELLs will make connections to the places Olivia visits and her experiences in Italy.



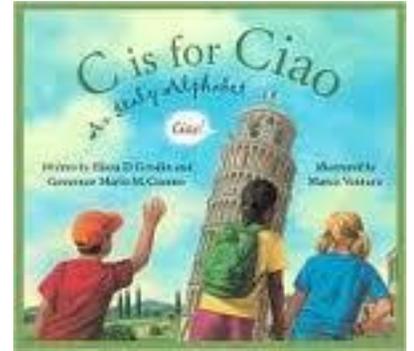
Also available in eBook format [ISBN-13: 978-1-4424-2737-2]

Additional Resources

<http://www.oliviathepiglet.com/>

Olivia's own website allows her fans to learn about her other books, play games, learn about the author of her books and interact with her online.

Grodin, E.D. & Cuomo, M.M. (2009) *C is for ciao: An Italian alphabet*.
Michigan: Sleeping Bear Press.
[ISBN: 978-1-58536-361-2]



DRA level: 28 (simple text)
Interest level: grades 1-4
WIDA level: This book is written on two levels.
Simple, rhyming text: Developing
Extended explanations in paragraph form: Bridging +

This book is dynamic as it takes readers on an alphabetical exploration of Italy. Each page uses rhyme to tell a simple fact about Italy. In the margins, the reader can find up to eight paragraphs that elaborate on the topic. This book can be read to/by young readers who will enjoy the sing-song element of the journey through Italy. Older readers can gain a deeper understanding of the history of Italy through reading the margins. ELLs can make connections throughout the text.

Additional Resources

<http://www.gale.cengage.com/pdf/TeachersGuides/ItalyTeachersGuide.pdf>

This website is a link off of the publisher's site. It includes a 25-page teaching guide to use with the book.

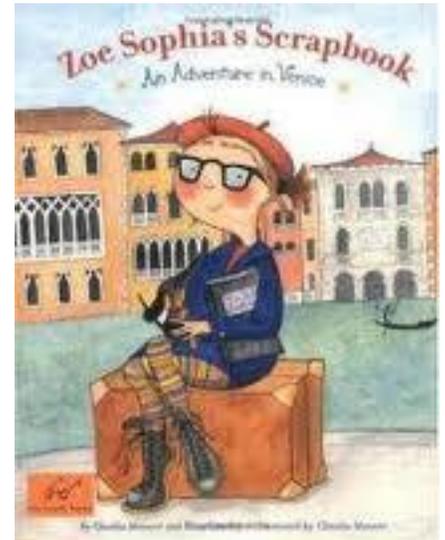
Maurer, C. & Smalley, E. (2003) *Zoe Sophia's scrapbook: An adventure in Venice*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.
[ISBN: 0-8118-3606-1]

DRA level: 30 -34

Interest level: Grades 1 - 3

WIDA level: Expanding

Zoe Sophia packs her bags and her dog Mickey and heads to Venice, Italy to stay with her Aunt Dorothy for a week. While there, she eats *cornetti* and *spremuta* for *la prima colazione* (breakfast). She tries on Carnevale masks at the Laboratorio Artigiano Maschere and takes a gondola ride down the Grand Canal. She shops in the Rialto and goes to the opera *La Traviata* at La Fenice. Zoe Sophia visits many of the popular attractions in Italy and infuses Italian words onto the pages of the scrapbook she makes of her vacation. ELLs would find Zoe's travels exciting as she visits places that many Italian children would have experienced. This book helps native English speaking children understand more about culture of Italy and the important landmarks. Through this book, native students can ask ELLs about their experiences in Italy and the places mentioned throughout the story.



Additional Resources

<http://www.zoesophia.com/>

Zoe Sophia has her own website where readers can learn about and purchase her other books and adventures, buy her products, and learn more about the authors, Claudia Maurer and Elisa Smalley.

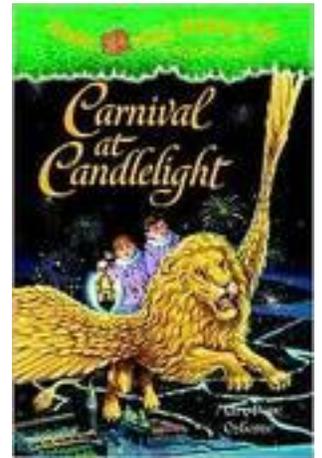
www.tumblebooks.com/library/asp/lessons/ZoeSophiaNewYork.doc

This lesson using the comprehension strategy of questioning before, during, and after reading the book [Zoe Sophia in New York: The Mystery of the Pink Phoenix Papers](#).

www.tumblebooks.com/library/asp/lessons/ZSScrapbook.doc

This lesson uses [Zoe Sophia's Scrapbook: An Adventure in Venice](#) to teach children how to document a significant event in their lives through pictures and words.

Osborne, M. P. (2005) *Carnival at Candlelight*. New York: Random House for Young Readers.
[ISBN: 0-3758-3033-2]



DRA level: 24-28
Interest level: grades 1-3
WIDA level: Developing/Expanding

Jack and Annie are asked to go back in time to Venice, Italy in order to save the Grand Lady of the Lagoon from a terrible disaster. Once there, they realize that their visit is on the day of Carnival (Carnevale) and that the entire city is at risk of being destroyed in a flood. Jack and Annie try to save the city, but instead end up in jail. ELLs would benefit from hearing an American perspective about the age old tradition of Carnival in Italy. This book could also help ELLs explain and discuss their experiences of Carnival in terms that English speaking peers could understand.

Also available in:

Japanese

Osborne, M. P. (2007) *Benechia tokin no raion*. Tokyo: Media Factory.
[ISBN:978-48401-1797-5]

Chinese

Osborne, M. P., Wu, J. & Wang, Y. (2008) *Feng kuang jia nian hua*. Taibei Shi : Tian xia yuan jia chu ban gu fen you xian gong si. [ISBN: 978-98621-6120-3]

Italian

Osborne, M. P., Murdocca, S., & Ponti, B. (2006) *Festa in maschera a Venezia*. Casale Monferrato: Piemme Junior. [ISBN: 978-88384-5233-8]

eBook

Osborne, M.P. (2009) *Carnival at Candlelight*. New York: Random House.
[ISBN: 978-03758-9455-8]

Book on CD

Osborne, M.P. (2008) *Carnival at Candlelight*. Princeton, NJ: Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic.
[OCLC Number: 271487793]

Book on tape

Osborne, M.P. (2006) *Carnival at Candlelight*. New York: Random House/Listening Library.
[OCLC Number: 70133419]

Additional Resources

http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/bookfairs/currconnection/mth_carnival.htm

Scholastic offers a brief summary of the book with questions to use with a whole class or reading group that scaffold the content so that students can understand what it is like in Venice, Italy.

www.magictreehouse.com

The Magic Tree House website allows children to answer questions about each of the books in this series in order to earn a "passport" from the place they just read about. There are many other activities and options for students who enjoy reading this series.

www.marypopeosborne.com

This is the author's website where she keeps readers updated on her latest books, shares stories about her inspirations, and offers information about Magic Tree House The Musical. Fans of Mary Pope Osborne can visit her site frequently to catch up on her latest events.

<https://fc.mcla.edu/~mn0379@mcla.edu/FOV1-0001CC89/FOV1-0001CC8E/S00789BB4?Plugin=Loft>

This lesson plan explains how to make a jeopardy game to use after reading *Carnival at Candlelight*.

Osborne, M. P. (1998) *Vacation under the volcano*. New York: Random House Books for Young Readers.

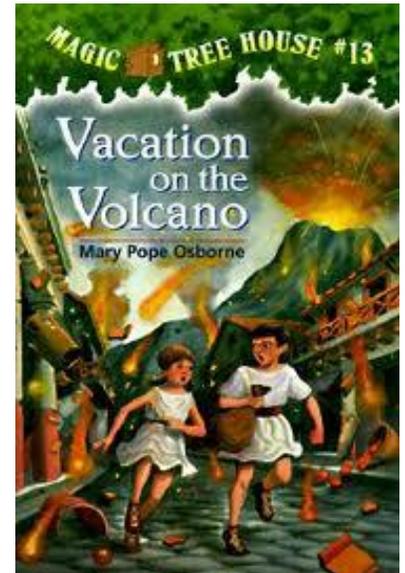
[ISBN-13: 978-06798-9050-8]

DRA level: 24-28

Interest level: grades 1-3

WIDA level: Developing/Expanding

This book is #13 in the Magic Tree House series. In this adventure, Jack and Annie travel to the ancient Roman seaside town of Pompeii in search of a missing scroll. Jack and Annie meet an old soothsayer who warns them of danger and a gladiator who scares the wits out of them. To their surprise, Pompeii is at the base of Mount Vesuvius, a volcano that suddenly erupts as they're searching for the scroll in an ancient library. Jack and Annie race against time to get out of Pompeii and back home without losing the scroll that they came for. ELLs would enjoy this fictional adventure through the time of the ancient Roman Empire and to hear the story of what it may have been like to live in Italy when the city of Pompeii became frozen in time.



Also available in:

Spanish

Osborne, M. P. & Brovelli, M. (2007) *Vacaciones al pie de un volcan*. New York: Lectorum Publishing. [ISBN: 978-19330-3219-1]

Italian

Osborne, M. P. & Invernizzi, M. (2001) *Una vacanza vulcanica a Pompei*. Casale Monferrato: Piemme Junior.

French

Osborne, M. P. & Masson, P. (2003) *Panique a Pompei*. Paris: Bayard Jeunesse. [ISBN: 2747009777 9782747009775 2747018415 9782747018418]

Book on Tape

Osborne, M. P. & Greene, G. *Vacation on the volcano*. (2003) Washington, D.C. : National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. [OCLC Number: 58390220]

Book on CD

Osborne, M. P. (2004) *Vacation on the volcano*. Princeton, NJ: Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic. [OCLC Number: 55764114]

Additional Resources

http://www.mce.k12tn.net/reading11/vacation_under_the_volcano.htm

Vocabulary, comprehension questions, and extension activities are provided on this website for each chapter of the book.

<http://images.pcmac.org/Uploads/Exploreum/Exploreum/Divisions/PagesLevel2/Documents/Pompeii%20Teachers%20Guide.pdf>

This website is an extensive lesson called "A Day in Pompeii" which brings experiences into the classroom to help students gain an understanding of life in the Ancient Roman Empire. This lesson could be modified to meet the needs of various grade levels.

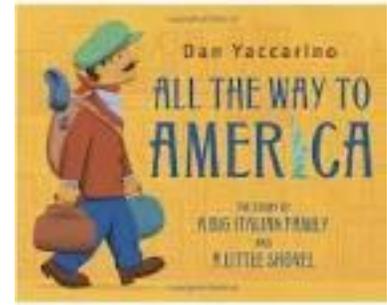
Yaccarino, D. (2011) *All the way to America: The story of a big Italian family and a little shovel*. New York: Random House Children's Books.

[ISBN: 978-0-375-86642-5]

DRA level: 24

Interest level: grades K - 2

WIDA level: Beginning/Developing



This author tells the story of how his great-grandfather leaves Sorrento, Italy as a young man to look for new opportunities in America. His parents send him off with a silver shovel and a reminder to work hard, enjoy life, and remember his family. The shovel is passed down from one generation to the next as each new family establishes themselves as Italian Americans. Many ELLs will connect to the theme of immigration to the United States. This book also reinforces the importance of honoring family values. The author inspires all children to learn about their ancestors and discover the importance of family heirlooms.

Additional Resources

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/lessonplan.jsp?id=517>

Scholastic provides a detailed lesson plan with numerous extension activities appropriate for early elementary age students.

http://coreknowledge.org/mimik/mimik_uploads/lesson_plans/742/Immigration%20%20Coming%20to%20America.pdf

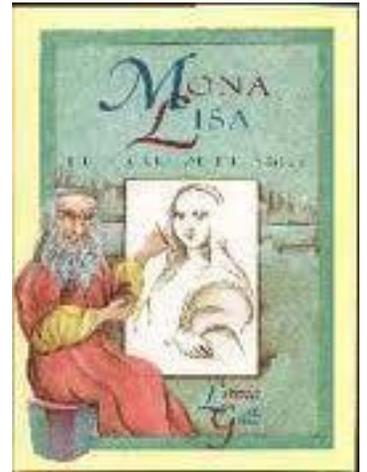
This mini social studies unit helps children understand the contributions immigrants have made in America and develop empathy for immigrant experiences traveling to a new country.

Galli, L. (1996) *Mona Lisa: The secret of the smile*. New York: Delacorte Press.
[ISBN-10: 0-3853-2108-2]

DRA level: 24 - 28

Interest level: Grades 1-3

WIDA level: Developing/Expanding



This book follows Leonardo da Vinci from childhood to adulthood as he studies birds to discover the secret of flight, designs costumes and festivals for the Duke of Milan, and finally paints the most famous portrait in the world, The Mona Lisa. This book helps to explain the Renaissance period by glorifying da Vinci's untraditional methods and abstract thinking. For ELLs, this book helps to bring Italian history into English. ELLs from Italy may be surprised to realize how much Americans respect the contributions Italy has made in history, art, education, and more.

Additional Resources

<http://www.diaryof1.com/2008/02/17/leonardo-da-vinci-for-kids-2/>

This website is designed for older children and offers more information about da Vinci's interests. There are also art ideas for children to try out, based on the contributions Leonardo da Vinci made to the modern world. Students can find ideas about making maps, drawing horses, and painting birds.

dePaola, T. (1989) *Tony's bread*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.

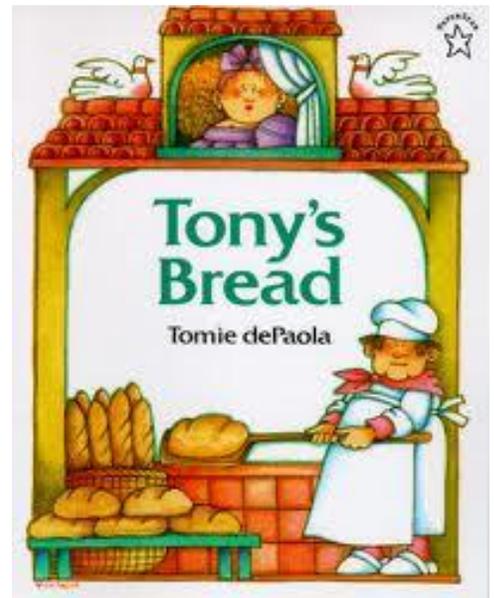
[ISBN: 0-399-21693-6]

DRA level: 38

Interest level: grades K-2

WIDA level: Developing/Expanding

This Italian folktale tells the story of how *panettone*, an Italian bread, was created. This bread is very popular in the city of Milano and is enjoyed by Italians and Americans alike during Christmas. In Tomie dePaola's version, Tony the baker is invited to Milano by Angelo, a nobleman who wants to marry his daughter and help Tony open up a new bakery. After visiting Milano, Tony realizes that his bread is too plain for the elegant city and sets to work making a new recipe with the finest ingredients. Tony's new bread, panettone, is a hit in Milano. ELLs will most likely know some version of this popular folktale.



Additional Resources

<http://www.brighthub.com/education/early-childhood/articles/70491.aspx>

This is a bread lesson targeted for younger learners.

<http://www.lindaslearninglinks.com/food.html>

This website is a thematic unit about food which includes pizza, bread, pasta, soups, and more. The lessons incorporate culture and music into the study of each of the different foods. There are literature links to each of the different lesson ideas.

<http://www.tomie.com/>

Tomie dePaola is an American author from Italy who has written numerous books that depict his Italian heritage. Information about the author and his other works can be found on his website.

<http://ethemes.missouri.edu/themes/1762>

This website provides links for teachers who are using Tomie dePaola's books in an author study.

http://www.childrenslit.com/childrenslit/mai_depaola_tomie.html

This website highlights many of dePaola's works as an author and illustrator. Included is a summary of each book, the ISBN number, price of the book, and target age of audience.

Non-Print Resources

www.mamalisa.com

This website has lyrics and music to kid's songs, nursery rhymes, chants, and finger plays from countries around the world. The website is available in English, Spanish, and French. The homepage is divided by continent. From there, the user can select the country from which he/she would like to find music. For each song, there is an English translation. For many songs there are directions for how to play a game while singing the song. You can also find recipes from each of the countries and literature links to books about the culture. This website is a tool that any ESL teacher can use to find songs in a students' native language. ELLs can use this website to help teach English speaking peers songs from his/her native country.



YouTube.com has numerous children's songs in Italian. The following songs can easily be found and enjoyed by children who speak Italian or families who are learning Italian. Each video also provides a link or website where the viewer can go to download or purchase the song on cd or through itunes.



Stella Stellina

Volevo Un Gatto Nero

Il Ballo del Qua Qua

Il Pulcino Ballerino

Il Gatto Puzzolone

Mi Scappo la Pipi



REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



The Booklist Project

A Project of the
M.Ed. In TESL Program,



Feinstein School of Education and Human Development
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