**Umbrellas For Sale**

**(A Lesson in Poverty)**

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Age Level and Group Size: 5TH grade, whole group

Time Estimate: 30 Minutes

Learning Outcomes

* Students will gain a better understanding of Thai culture.
* Students will gain a better understanding of poverty and actions they can take to alleviate it.

Rationale:

Students will explore the theme of worldwide poverty through the Thai culture read about in The Umbrella Queen by Shirin Yim Bridges.

Common Core Standards

* [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/5/1/) Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
* [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.7](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/5/7/) Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
* [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.3](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/SL/5/3/) Summarize the points a speaker makes and explain how each claim is supported by reasons and evidence.
* [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.4](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/SL/5/4/) Report on a topic or text or present an opinion, sequencing ideas logically and using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

**Materials**

* The Umbrella Queen by Shirin Yim Bridges, Illustrated by Taeeun Yoo
* Umbrella making materials
  + Paper
  + Bamboo sticks
  + Wire
  + Paint, markers, feathers, felt, decorative materials

**Pre-reading**

*We have been talking a lot about Asian cultures. Today we will be continuing our research with the country Thailand.*

*How many of you work, not counting chores around the house? How many of you have some sort of job you are paid for? How many of you support your families with money you make? Imagine that you had to support your family by having a job, on top of going to school every day. You would be very busy! Today you are going to hear a story about a little girl from Thailand named Noot, who has a special job that helps her support her family. As I am reading, I want you to put yourself in Noot’s shoes. How would you feel if you were not only helping your family earn money to live, but you had to do it a certain way and couldn’t try new things? We are going to think about this as we read, and at the end of the book, you will have the chance to become like Noot and help make money for families that are having trouble making ends meet.*

**During reading**

* p. 5-6, Brief discussion of Thai culture; what is important to them?
* p. 17-18, More discussion of elephant importance in Thailand
* p. 19-20, Noot is told she cannot paint what she wants; she must sell the umbrellas to support her family, it is not a personal hobby
* End: Why were the elephant umbrellas chosen? Why is this significant? How might the traditions in the village change because of this?

**Post-reading**

* Students will research local charities having to do with poverty in the community. The class will choose a charity to donate to.
* Class will create brainstorm Asian influences to incorporate on their umbrellas.
* Make umbrellas to later sell at a school function to raise money. The money will be donated to their charity.

**Extensions to other subject areas**

* Social studies: Conduct background research on Thailand and the Thai culture. Compare and contrast research to local culture. Community study: what are things children could sell in their community?
* Art: Asian symbols, Asian art influences we see in America
* Math: How much does it cost to create the umbrellas? How much should they be sold for to make a profit? Students could figure these percentages.