



Iowa National Guard Youth and Teen Program
Family Programs Office
JFHQ A-1 RM 186
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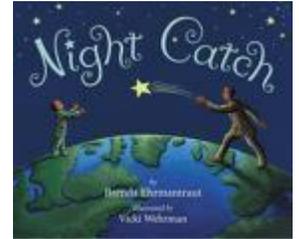


Book: Night Catch

Author: Brenda Ehrmantraut

Ages: 3-9

Lesson:



1. Begin by showing the students the cover of the book. Then read the title of the book to the children. Have the students infer what the book might be about based on the cover and title.
2. Point out that the little boy and the dad are on different parts of the world. Ask the students to draw inferences as to why that might be.
3. Why do you think the dad is tossing a star to the little boy?
4. Begin reading the story, pausing throughout to ask the following questions:
 - a. Why might the Soldier have to say 'goodbye' to his son?
 - b. Based on the illustrations, what do you think the boy's favorite game is?
 - c. What is visible at night that you can't see during the day?
 - d. What does the earth do that causes one side to have day time and the other side to have night time?
 - e. Polaris is the name given to what?
 - f. In which direction would you find Polaris if you looked to the sky at night?
 - g. What does it mean to salute?
 - h. What is the dad going to ask the crew to do?
 - i. Aside from the North Star, what are some other objects in the sky you can see around the world?
5. After reading the story, ask the students to draw conclusions as to what the message was. How would they feel if their loved one had to be gone for a very long time?

Activities:

1. Read the excerpt about the North Star. Then, challenge the students to go home and look for the North Star at night.
2. Take time to talk about other times people have used the North Star when traveling around the world.
3. Have the students take time to learn about the different constellations. Pick out 3 or 4 constellations and research the meaning behind them. How did they get their name?

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