

Literacy Connections

There are a number of ways in which a Literacy teacher can collaborate with the Social Studies teacher for the China Unit. Here are a few to get you thinking about some of the connections which can be made.

Non-fiction Genre Study

Mini lessons can focus on elements of the genre, features of non-fiction texts (tables of contents, indexes...), and text organization.

During readers' workshop, students can read non-fiction material on China. The following series is written at middle school level and contains a great deal of information:

China: the land, by Bobbie Kalman

China: the people, by Bobbie Kalman

China: the culture, by Bobbie Kalman

It would also be valuable to following current events in China each day, reading aloud from newspapers, magazines, or news downloads from the web.

During writers' workshop, students can practice writing in the non-fiction genre by working on an ABC book (their cumulative project), or another type of factual book, newspaper, or magazine.

Historical Fiction Genre Study

Realistic Fiction Genre Study

Folktale and Fairytale Genre Study

The resources which a literacy teacher could use for any of these studies are divided into sections listed in the "Resources" section of this unit.

Author Study

Lawrence Yep, a Chinese-American author, has written numerous children's books on the topic of China. His books are listed in the "Resources" section of the Unit, and can be used in conjunction with his autobiography, entitled The Lost Garden, for a complete author study.