



I'm New Here

Written and illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien

Anne Sibley O'Brien is a children's book creator who has illustrated thirty-two picture books, including *Jamaica's Find* and six other Jamaica titles by Juanita Havill. She is the author of fourteen books, including the graphic novel retelling of *The Legend of Hong Kil Dong: The Robin Hood of Korea*. One recent title she wrote and illustrated - *I'm New Here*, a picture book about three immigrant children - was named to Kirkus Review's "Best Books of 2015." Her timely first novel, *In the Shadow of the Sun*, published in June 2017, is a political escape thriller set in North Korea, and is the first fictional representation for young readers of the contemporary DPRK. -from her website, annesibleyobrien.com

Anne is one of the visionaries behind *I'm Your Neighbor*, a project "which promotes the use of children's literature featuring 'new arrival' cultures and groups to engage the entire community in a discussion of commonalities and differences."

<http://www.imyourneighborbooks.org>

Coloring Between the Lines (Anne's blog): reflections on race, culture and children's books: <http://www.coloringbetweenthelines.com>



Ask Annie!

What is one of your favorite children's books?
Tatsinda by Elizabeth Enright

Name a place that is special to your heart.

Actually, two places are special: an island off the coast of South Korea, called Geojedo, where I lived when I was a teenager and young adult, and an island off the coast of Portland, called Peaks, where I live now.

Why do you love living in Maine?

Quiet (especially on Peaks!), beauty, the ocean, all of which help me focus on my work – and lots of people who are beloved to me.

A selection of books Anne has authored and/or illustrated:



Let's Talk! (CCSS: SL.1)

1. Why might a family move from one place to another?
2. What kinds of things can you learn from people who are from other places?
3. How do you feel whenever you go to a new place?
4. What helps you feel more comfortable in a new place?
5. When have you learned something new that took a little getting used to?
6. In the Author's Note, Anne Sibley O'Brien writes that a great way to create a welcoming community is to share books. What books would you share with someone new to your class?
7. What are other ways you can be a welcoming community?



Let's Create!

1. Like the students in Fatimah's class, draw a picture to show how you live in your community. What ingredients make up your community?
2. With your class, learn about Fatimah, Jin, and Maria's cultures (Somalia, Korea, and Guatemala respectively), and draw a picture of how they might live in the communities they came from.
3. Write a few sentences to explain some of the differences and similarities between the pictures you've drawn. What are your observations? **(CCSS: W.2)**
4. Write about your family's history and their place of origin. Are your ancestors native to the region? Did they travel here from somewhere else? When?
5. Family Ties and Fabric Tales: A lesson about family and immigration that promotes diversity, identity, and justice: <http://www.tolerance.org/lesson/family-ties-and-fabric-tales-elementary> **(CCSS: W.8)**
6. Read about Julia and her experience through this lesson, "Who is an Immigrant?" and compare and contrast to the characters' experiences in *I'm New Here* <http://www.tolerance.org/lesson/who-immigrant> **(CCSS: RL.9)**

Let's Learn More!

1. Meet Young Immigrants: hear the stories of real kids who have recently immigrated to the United States. http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/young_immigrants/
2. What inspired Anne to write *I'm New Here*: Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5C8upd7qgo>
3. Young students discuss 'being new' and what you can say to someone new: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sziomv9rp5k>
4. On a map, find the countries that Fatimah, Jin, and Maria came from, and also find the location of your school. Consider that these three children might come to your school. What forms of transportation could they use to get from their native country to your community? Boats? Planes? Cars?
5. Write out 'Welcome' in numerous languages! Speech bubbles for students to trace or copy, along with a treasure trove of discussion questions, activities, and resources: <http://www.imyourneighborbooks.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Im-New-Here-Welcoming-Event-Kit.pdf>



Let's Read More! (CCSS: RL.10)

- *The Journey*, by Francesca Sanna
- *Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation*, by Edwidge Danticat and illustrated by Leslie Staub
- *The Name Jar*, by Yangsook Choi
- *My Name is Yoon*, by Helen Recorvits and illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska
- *A Piece of Home*, by Jeri Watts and illustrated by Hyewon Yum
- *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale*, by Duncan Tonatiuh
- *A Different Pond*, by Bao Phi and illustrated by Thi Bui
- *The Seeds of Friendship*, by Michael Foreman
- *My Two Blankets*, by Irena Kobald and illustrated by Freya Blackwood
- *Dear Baobab*, by Cheryl Foggo and Qin Leng
- *This is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from around the World*, by Matt Lamothe
- *The Color of Home*, by Mary Hoffman
- *Joseph's Big Ride*, by Terry Farish and illustrated by Ken Daley

