

# *Same, Same but Different*

**AUTHOR:** Jenny Kostecki-Shaw

**ILLUSTRATOR:** Jenny Kostecki-Shaw

**PUBLISHER:** Henry Holt

**COPYRIGHT DATE:** 2011

**ART MEDIUM:** acrylics, crayon, pencil, collage and tissue paper on Strathmore illustration board

**GENRE:** Contemporary realistic fiction

**LIFE SKILLS:** curiosity, caring, friendship

**SYNOPSIS:** What is India like? Two boys on different sides of the world communicate by letter, and discover many things are the same, but a bit different, about their lives.

## **BOOKTALK:**

How much do you think you have in common with a student living in China, or India, or Australia? Would you like to have a pen pal? Capture the experience of sharing art and words with someone from another culture. You can travel to India or the United States and share the world just by opening this book.

## **AUTHOR and ILLUSTRATOR:**

Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

Jenny is a freelance children's author and illustrator. She attended the Kansas City Art Institute. After college, she was hired as a greeting card artist for Hallmark. She now illustrates a variety of things, including children's books, advertising, home décor, greeting cards, and logos.

Jenny has been an artist all of her life. She remembers drawing from a young age, looking up to her brother who loved drawing, and even illustrating poems her sister would write. When she was 8, she won her first art contest. Jenny eventually went on to art school in Kansas. She loves to travel when she gets her inspirations, as well as, her life and the world around her.

## **Other books written by the author/illustrator:**

*My Travelin' Eye*

**CHALLENGING WORDS:** Kailash, village, yoga, P.S., village, alphabet, delivery, peacocks, umbrellas, especially, favorite, clasp, spiral, Namaste

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Please include 4-6 questions)**

- 1 What did Elliot learn from being a penpal?
- 2 Why did Kailash think Elliot lived in a tree?

- 3 How are you the same/different from Kailash?
- 4 How are you the same/different from Elliot?
- 5 Where do you think Kailash lives?
- 6 What else do you think Elliot and Kailash have in common?
- 7 Why do you think Elliot and Kailash's teachers wanted them to write to children in another country?
- 8 Do you think it's possible to have a best friend who lives in another country? Why or why not?
- 9 On the endpapers of the book, the author uses all different stamps. Why does she choose stamps?
- 10 The summary on the book jacket says that the boys are pen pals. On the first page, the teacher writes picture pals on the board. What is the difference between pen pals and picture pals?
- 11 The boys ask each other questions about what they like to do and who they live with. They show each other the alphabet and talk about school. What other questions would you ask your pen pal?
- 12 Elliot and Kailash describe how they say hello to their friends. How do you say hello or goodbye to your friends?

#### **ACTIVITIES with CORE STANDARDS:**

##### *Social Studies:*

**SS.2.3.1 2007 The World in Spatial Terms: Use a compass rose to identify cardinal and intermediate directions and to locate places on maps and places in the classroom, school and community.**

**SS.2.3.2 2007 The World in Spatial Terms:** Locate the equator and the poles on a globe and identify the local community, state and the United States on maps.

Locate the United States and Indiana on the map. Use different ways to describe the locations of the two countries and their locations in relation to each other.

##### *Language Arts:*

- Make a Venn Diagram showing Elliot and Kailash's similarities and differences.
- As a class, find students in another country to be pen pals with.

1) Identify who's world is being described, Elliot or Kailash.

I live in a red brick building with my mom, dad, and baby sister – who am I?

A great river flows through my village – who am I?

Taxis, buses and cars fill my city streets – who am I?

My favorite class is yoga – who am I?

1.RL.6 Identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.

2) Copy Elliott's English alphabet. Write all uppercase and lower case letters.

1.L.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

a. Print all upper and lowercase letters.

**RELATED INTERNET SITES:**

Author/Illustrators Website: <http://dancingelephantstudio.com/visualart/>