

Guide for Something Really Important

All Around the world

By Gamma Jan

For Teachers or Parents:

Introduction of Author:

Jan Johnston, known as **Gamma Jan** to her two grandchildren and to her young readers, is the author of *Something Really Important*, is her second book for children *All Around the World*. During her career as an educator, Gamma Jan taught preschool through third grade children from around the world at three International Schools in Saudi Arabia as well as in the United States. She has a passion for helping children no matter where they live.

Every book in the *All Around the World* series takes place on a different continent, sometimes with in a particular country or city mentioned. You can help your children look for the country on a globe. It is like a game for the children to see if they can find where the story takes place.

Story:

The theme of this story is about basic needs or what it takes to live a good life on earth. The story also helps in developing a child's character.

Sharik is the main character in the story. She lives on the continent of Africa in the country of Kenya. In the story she points out the name of her city on the globe. Have the children listen for her continent and city.

Sharik has a special name for her grandmother. The children will find the name as they read the book.

Today is a special day for Sharik. She is very close to her grandmother. Sharik enjoys sharing what she learns in school and her grandmother looks forward to hearing what Sharik is sharing.

Sharik learns about things to live a good life on earth. Her classmates add other things. Perhaps your children can add more things to the list.

Her grandmother shares one more thing that she believes all people on earth need to live a good life on earth. Have the children look for what Grand shares with Sharik.

When Sharik and her grandmother do something nice for someone who is hurt, she learns the value of making a difference in someone's life.

Ask the children the following:

- How did Miss Bessie feel when Grand and Sharik visited her?
- Why did Miss Bessie feel that way?
- How did Sharik feel inside?
- How did Grand feel inside?
- Did Sharik think what Grand shared should go on the list to live a good life?
- Did Grand agree with her? Do you agree with Sharik?
- The song will help children around the world remember what Grand shared.

(The song is at the end of the book, and then a free download of the story and the song. Be creative and put motions to the song. Children love to act out their songs.)

This book can help children learn some of the important values in life, like caring about others and sharing their feelings, as well as asking questions so they will learn.

A book is a wonderful tool for educators and parents to know and understand the knowledge their child or children have of important topics in life as they grow.

A Teachable Moment:

Some children may say they do not have a grandmother to share about what they are learning. Let's talk about who you do have to share with what you are learning whether they say that or not.

The important thing is that they share, for it helps children to remember what they are learning. It also makes children feel good that others care about what they are learning in school.

Suggested Daytime Activities:

1. Re-read or review the book.
2. Learn the song.
3. Children can share ways to show others they care.

Introduce the Song Writer:

Fran Ellis was a special friend and former co-worker of Gamma Jan's who loved to write songs for children. As a teacher, she delighted in playing the piano and teaching her students new songs. Fran wrote five songs for Gamma Jan's books.

Dedication:

This story is dedicated to Gamma Jan's grandmothers, who were so kind to her growing up.

She wrote the character of Grand with her grandmothers in mind.