Oh, my noodles!

Makanaka just got a message from her friend Nadia inviting her for a visit—in Morocco!

Makanaka and her parrot, Fari, quickly take off for Casablanca. When they arrive, they discover that Nadia has a problem. Someone has taken her soccer team's ball!

Can Makanaka and Fari help Nadia's team solve the mystery?

Young children will love discovering the magic of Morocco while they search with Makanaka to find the missing soccer ball.

makanakasworld.com  christinemapondera.com

The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions, activities, and work sheets in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit corestandards.org.
All discussion questions are aligned with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1, unless otherwise noted.

How is Makanaka able to communicate with friends who live in other countries?

Who is Fari and how does he help Makanaka get to the faraway places she wishes to visit?

Where are Fari and Makanaka headed? Why do they want to go to this place?

Look at the illustrations on the pages that show when Makanaka and Fari first arrive at their destination. How are Makanaka’s friends feeling? How is Fari feeling? How do the illustrations show how the characters feel?

Makanaka and her friends have a mystery to solve. What are they trying to find? What clue helps them solve the mystery?

Where do the friends finally find what they were searching for?

How do the friends celebrate after they play a game of soccer?

Why is Fari concerned about getting himself and Makanaka home safely?

How does Makanaka know that another adventure is ahead for her and Fari?

Look at the world map at the end of the story. In which country did Makanaka start her journey? To which country did Fari take Makanaka? What did they fly across to reach their destination?
ACTIVITIES

MAGICAL MOROCCO

Study the “Mini Tour of Morocco” that appears at the end of the book. Choose one of the beautiful sites featured on these pages. Research facts about your selected site. Use your research to create a travel diary where you describe what it would be like to visit your selected part of Morocco. Include sensory details to help your reader experience the beauty of Morocco.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2

ARABIC GLOSSARY

Arabic is one of the languages spoken in Morocco. Hunt through the book to identify Arabic words in the story. Make a glossary for the book of the Arabic words used to tell the tale of Makanaka’s journey to Morocco. Be sure to put the Arabic words in alphabetical order and to write a definition for each of the words you list in your glossary.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.1.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.4

SOUK SCENE

As Fari and Makanaka fly over Marrakesh, Makanaka remarks on the souks below that she visited the last time she was in Morocco. Research what a souk is and what you would see if you were to visit one. Create a colorful illustration showing what a visitor might see in a souk. Add captions to your picture to give information about the parts of your illustration.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2

The discussion questions, activities, and work sheets in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master’s and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.
NAME: _______________________________________________________________________

SYMMETRY AND SHAPES IN MOROCCAN TILE ART

Morocco is known for many beautiful things, including Moroccan tile art. The tiles are designed using shapes in a SYMMETRICAL pattern, where one side of the design is the exact same shape and size as the other side. Look at the example of Moroccan tile art below and notice how the shapes are arranged symmetrically. In the squares below, create your own symmetrical tile art. Add color to your design using crayons or colored pencils. 

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.G.B.6; CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.G.A.2; CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.G.A.1
MOROCCAN MINT TEA

In the story, Nadia’s mom gives the children mint tea and ghribas as a treat after the game. Traditional Moroccan mint tea is made in several steps; the recipe below is a quicker version. With an adult’s help, make Moroccan mint tea to share with your friends.

MOROCCAN MINT TEA

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups boiling water
- 3 teaspoons green tea
- 20 fresh mint leaves
- 3 tablespoons sugar

DIRECTIONS

Combine the green tea, mint leaves, and sugar in a pot or teapot. Add the boiling water and allow to steep for 3–5 minutes. Stir the tea once or twice as it steeps. Pour the tea through a fine strainer to catch the mint and tea leaves. Serve tea in individual cups.
MOROCCAN GHРИBAS

Ghribas are traditional Moroccan cookies that are typically made by rolling the dough into a ball. With an adult’s help, bake a batch of ghribas to eat with Moroccan mint tea.

ORANGE AND CARDAMOM GHРИBAS

INGREDIENTS

| 1⅔ cup flour | ½ teaspoon baking powder |
| ⅓ cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar | ¼ teaspoon salt |
| ¼ cup sesame seeds toasted and ground | 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened |
| Zest of 2 oranges | 5 tablespoons canola or sunflower oil |
| ½ teaspoon cardamom | ½ teaspoon vanilla extract |

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 335°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, ground sesame seeds, orange zest, cardamom, baking powder, and salt. With an electric mixer or a wooden spoon, mix the butter, oil, and vanilla extract until smooth. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix until a dough consistency is reached. Knead the dough on a worktop for 5 minutes until soft and all the ingredients are well incorporated. Add a few drops or water or fresh-squeezed orange juice if needed.

Divide the dough into 15 balls about the size of a golf ball. Place them on a baking sheet and flatten them with the palm of your hand. Leave some room between the ghribas when placing them on the baking sheet as they will expand slightly while baking. Bake for 17 to 20 minutes, until golden.

Allow ghribas to cool completely before removing them from the baking sheet.

Makes 15 cookies.

Recipe by Nargisse Benkabbou, mymoroccanfood.com
PUTTING THE STORY IN ORDER

Number the following story events in the order in which they appear in Makanaka’s World: Adventure in Morocco.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1;

________ Makanaka’s Moroccan friends tell her that they can’t play soccer because their ball is missing.

________ Makanaka and her friends drink mint tea after the soccer game.

________ Makanaka gets a message from Nadia on her wrist transmitter.

________ Makanaka and her friends follow shoe prints to a very busy street by the Hassan II Mosque.

________ Fari transforms into a plane to take Makanaka to Morocco.

________ An elderly woman points to where the ball has rolled.

________ Makanaka and Fari head home with plans for more adventures.

________ Nadia and Makanaka discover that Nadia’s dog, Bibi, has the ball.

ANSWERS: 3, 7, 1, 4, 2, 5, 8, 6
WHERE IN THE WORLD WILL MAKANAKA AND FARI GO NEXT?

Look carefully at the first illustration in Makanaka's World: Adventure in Morocco. The books in the top shelf of the bookcase hint at where Makanaka may travel next! Find these seven countries on the world map below. Select a unique color for each and use crayons or colored pencils to fill in each country. Complete the map key to identify each country by the color you’ve chosen to represent it. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7

MAP KEY

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Where do you think Makanaka and Fari will go next?

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