Home of the Brave

By: Applegate, Katherine

Publisher: Feiwel and Friends
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Genre: Poetry/Contemporary Realistic Fiction/Immigrant Stories
Setting: Minnesota, US Present day

SUMMARY: Fifth grader Kek has been sent from his home in the Sudan to Minneapolis, Minnesota to live with his aunt and cousin after his father and brother are killed and his mother goes missing. The adjustment is painful for Kek, until he becomes attached to an elderly widow’s cow. The discovery of diversity and discrimination in America overwhelm Kek, but with determination and spirit he is able to adjust to his new home.

AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:
This is Katherine Applegate’s first stand alone novel. She is the credited author of the Animorphs, Remnants, Everworld, and serval other book series. Learn more about her at: http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/a/katherine-a-applegate/.

Other books written by the author include:

The Megamorphs books
The Andalite Chronicles
The Hork-Bajir Chronicles
The Ellimist Chronicles
Visser
The Alternamorphs Books 1 and 2

SIMILAR BOOKS/BOOKS WITH A SIMILAR THEME:

Behind the Mountains by Edwidge Danicat
Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You by Hanna Jansen
Countdown by Ben Mikaelsen
A Step from Heaven by An Na
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (If question is related to a specific chapter, chapter is in parenthesis following question)

1. Did the story of Kek change your mind about the issues of immigration? In what ways?
2. Ked felt very different in his classroom. Have you had similar experiences? How did you deal with them?
3. What is the most important thing Kek has to learn about himself when he comes to America?
4. Describe how Kek’s relationship with his cousin changes over the course of the book?
5. How does the author use descriptions of the weather and climate to reflect changes in Kek?

LITERARY LINKS:

Shows different maps of the Sudan
www.sudan.net/government/admap.html

Complete description of the Sudan
www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107996.html

Research the history, geography and government of Sudan
http://www.arab.net/sudan/

Learn about the genocide in the 20th century
http://www.arab.net/sudan/

Interview with author Katherine Applegate concerning this book
http://www.sandhyanankani.com/wordpress/?p=96

Language Arts (List each and Indiana Academic Standards Grades 6-8 addressed by each):

1. Visualize the scene that had the most impact on you-then list one descriptor for each of the senses you felt from the scene. (ex.: loneliness for his mother-the sense of touch from tears on his skin.)

7.3.3, 7.3.4 7.4.3 Reading Comprehension and Analysis
Social Studies (List each and Indiana Academic Standards Grades 6-8 addressed by each):

Read the account of a real boy who has come to the United States from Sudan because of the warring in their country. Compare his schooling, food and daily family life in Sudan to yours in one or more paragraphs. Read about Garand at: http://www.redcross.org/news/in/africa/images/lostboysgarangshow/001.html

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