



TeachersFirst READING TREKS

Lost and Found Cat

Teacher Guide

Grade Level & Content Areas

Access Reading
Trek Map

Ages: 4–9

Grades: Pre-K–3

Reading Level: 4th grade

Lexile Measure: AD810L

Guided Reading Level: P

Developmental Reading

Assessment (DRA): 38

Content Areas: English/language arts, reading, literature, and social studies (including culture, geography, global connections, and social justice).

Synopsis of Book

Amy Clarice (Shrodes) and photojournalist Doug Kuntz tell the daring true story of the escape of an Iraqi mother, her children, and their beloved cat, Kunkush, from their war-torn country. The family travels over land and sea in vehicles, by foot, and by raft to reach the Greek island of Lesbos. As the raft beaches on shore, chaos ensues, and Kunkush escapes his basket and ventures into the woods. The saddened family must travel on, but an American volunteer with experience caring for animals discovers Kunkush, cares for him, and uses social media to reach out and find his family. *Lost and Found Cat* is a true story of hope, kindness, and perseverance.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 7: PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION,

- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
- Theme 4: INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY

- AND CONSUMPTION
- Theme 8: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY
- Theme 9: GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING

Social Justice Standards

- IDENTITY
- DIVERSITY
- JUSTICE (upper elementary students)
- ACTION

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying [Reading Trek map](#) as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map, highlighting the various layers.
2. Discuss migration within a country, immigration, and how both have changed over the centuries, including why a person or group might choose these directions. Create a K-W-L chart about both using IdeaBoardz ([TeachersFirst review](#)) and a Venn Diagram showing the similarities and differences using Class Tools ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
3. Invite a guest speaker from a local animal shelter to speak to the class about basic pet needs and how the shelter helps animals reunite with their owners and find new homes. Afterward, students should write a letter of thanks to the guest speaker.
4. Languages, methods of travel, foods, and other aspects of life are often specific to countries or states within larger areas such as the European Union. Create a table or spreadsheet highlighting the areas where the family travels during their migration. Students can work in small groups to research specific regions and topics. Record the information on

- a single visual board using Milanote ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
5. Family heritage and one's identity can be a difficult topic for children who don't have access to information about their family's past. Students can create an actual or imagined family heritage page using Adobe Creative Cloud Express ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
 6. Create a word cloud visual of the saying "A picture is worth 1,000 words." Project select images from [Doug Kuntz's gallery](#) and have students enter a short answer response using Vevox ([TeachersFirst review](#)).

Extension Activities:

1. Host a needs drive. Consult with the school's social worker or guidance counselor to assist refugee families in your area. As a class, brainstorm about what families who are new to the community might need. Older students might create welcome-to-the-neighborhood-type packets showing local points of interest, such as parks, bus stops, and stores. On a smaller scale, classes can construct a package to welcome new students that contains crucial school supplies.
2. Host a pet food drive for your local animal shelter in the grade you teach or throughout the school. Create posters to promote the campaign using the free downloadable art from Template.net ([TeachersFirst review](#)) and Design Cap Poster Creator ([TeachersFirst review](#)). Set a goal for a certain number of items or pounds of food and keep track of the progress using Vizzlo ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
3. Read *Kunkush: The True Story of a Refugee Cat* by Marne Ventura and note similarities and differences in the story.
4. Create "stained glass" peace signs as a visual reminder to be kind. Learn more about the international peace sign at International Kids Club ([TeachersFirst review](#)). This activity is simple, but does require a bit of time to finalize. Students use crayons on standard paper to draw their own or color in a printed peace sign (note: do not cut it out!). After coloring, use cotton balls dipped in vegetable oil to moisten the back of the paper. Layer the oiled papers between sheets of newsprint for several days to allow the excess oil to absorb. Trim the extra paper away, punch a hole in the top, and use string or yarn to hang them in windows.
5. Students can write a journal entry about a beloved pet they have or would like to have and draw a picture of it.
6. Have students brainstorm the personal items they would truly need in the case of an emergency and draw themselves with these items. You can also ask students to prioritize and draw 3-5 things that would be most important.

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks](#)

Other Resources:

- [My Writing and Reading Life](#)
- [StoryMakers with Doug Kuntz](#)
- [Sue Cornelison Painted Words Featured Portfolio](#)
- [National Thoughtfulness Day Activities](#)
- [Lesvos Island Greece](#)
- [Immigration Myths Lesson](#)
- [Celebrating Identity and Diversity with Children's Literature](#)
- ["Being There" Article](#) (Background information for teachers and parents)