



TeachersFirst **READING TREKS**

Lost and Found Cat, the True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey

[TeachersFirst Reading Treks Link](#)

Synopsis of Book

This picture book, by Doug Kuntz and Amy Shrodes and illustrated by Sue Cornelison, is the incredible true story of a cat who was separated from his family while escaping the war in Iraq in 2015. After a journey across Europe and the help of many kind people, Kunkush reunites with his family. The story highlights the issues of refugees, especially in war zones and the strength and love of family.

Using a TeachersFirst Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks are a way of creating a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or 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 a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this Instructional Guide and the accompanying Reading Trek 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!

Grade Level & Content Areas

Ages 4-8 years, Grades PreK - 3 and up, English language arts, reading, social studies, including history and geography, RL = 4.6, Lexile = 810L

Common Core State Standards for MS/HS

Reading

- **Literature** (key ideas and details; craft and structure)
- **Informational Text** (key ideas and details; craft and structure, and range of reading)

Writing

- **Text Types and Purposes** (to support claims with evidence)
- **Research** (to build and present knowledge)

ISTE Standards for Students

- (1) Empowered Learner: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.
- (3) Knowledge Constructor: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.
- (6) Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- **Theme: CULTURE**
- **Theme: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS**
- **Theme: GLOBAL CONNECTIONS**

Using the Reading Trek in Class

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Treks map.
2. For younger students, read the book to the class. Have older students read it themselves.
3. Have students research more about the book using the Reading Trek as a webquest.
4. In each layer, have students explore the cities, countries, and places, including culture, history geography, and climate. Then report with a whole class chart or individual presentations.
5. Explore animal rescue organizations locally and nationally. Discuss why people volunteer to help animals.
6. Discuss why people like to have pets. Have students write about pets they have owned or would like to have. Include photos, if possible.

Additional Activities

1. Using the map, have students trace the journey and figure the mileage for the trip by car, the trip by boat, and then the travel across Europe.
2. Discuss immigration by having children explore their family's history. Students can ask their families about the stories of their ancestors that came to the U.S. Create a classroom [Google My Maps](#) of the origins of your students around the world and in the U.S.
3. For older students, use the map to research and discuss where refugees are found in the world and why. As a whole class or in small groups, have students create a [Google My Maps](#) or use charts or Google Spreadsheets to organize the research.

Helpful Resources

- [Lost and Found Cat Website](#)
- [Teaching Books.net Guide to *Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey*](#)
- [Resource Guide for Exploring *Lost and Found Cat*](#)
- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Mapping Across Content Areas with Google](#)
- [OK2Ask: Seeing is Believing: Make Literature Come Alive with Google Lit Trips](#)

