



## A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR WHEN AFRICA WAS HOME

This teacher's guide is designed to assist you in creating talking points and ideas for classroom activities in conjunction with school visits.



**WHEN AFRICA  
WAS HOME**  
by Karen Lynn Williams

### THEMES IN THIS BOOK

- Home, Returning Home

In the book Peter's parents think of America as home but Peter doesn't know America, Africa is home for him. Where do you think of as home? Where are your parents from? What makes a place home?

- Multicultural Lifestyles

In the book, Peter is from a different culture than the one he is living in. Look at the pictures and listen to (or read) the story. What are some of these differences? What new things does he experience when he returns to America?

- Friendship

Yehka is Peter's special friend. What do they do in the book that lets you know they are good friends? What do you like to do with your friends? What kinds of things do friends do for each other?

- Community

A community is a group of people who live together and share certain things. Who are the people that are part of Peter's community? Who are the people in your community? What things does Peter share with his community? What things make him different from members of his community?



*Peter's nanny, his Mai, and her husband.*

### SUBJECT AREAS IDEAS

- Social Studies

Find the continent of Africa on the map. What are some of the countries in Africa? Peter is living in Malawi. The people there speak many different languages. One of them is Chichewa. What are some of the Chichewa words in the story? What do people there eat? What are some of the things children in Malawi like to do and play? What can you learn about other African countries?



## A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR WHEN AFRICA WAS HOME continued

### SUBJECT AREAS IDEAS continued

- Art

Peter likes to make dolls and toys from clay found in the river beds. He also likes to slide down the anthills. The dirt from the anthills also makes good clay. People in many countries use the clay to make their water jugs and cooking pots. Use clay to make your own dolls or pots. What other kinds of art are found in Africa?

- Music

There are many different kinds of African music. Drums play an important part in music in Malawi. Make a drum and/or practice some rhythms on different kinds of drums. The ulemba is an important instrument in Malawi. It is made with slats of wood over various sized hollow gourds and is played like a large xylophone. Listen to some African CD's. Learn an African song.

- Language Arts

Story telling is an important pastime in many African cultures. Prepare a story to tell out loud. It can be real, made up or one you have heard before. Share it with your family, friends or class. Invite the audience to participate. Write a story or poem about what makes your home special. Or tell about a time you had to move and leave your home.

- Science

Peter plays on the anthills and the children also use the dirt for clay. Termites are also eaten for protein in many African countries. Do a study of termites. Why is the dirt especially good for clay? What other wild life is found in Malawi? In the rest of Africa? Many animals in Africa are becoming extinct? What is extinction and why is this happening?

- Physical Education

In Malawi the children often use old bicycle rims and a stick like hoops in early America. Get some old rims from a bicycle shop. Have relay races and obstacles courses using the rims like hoops guiding them with sticks or dowels.



*Peter and his friends in Africa.*



*Peter missed the warm rains of Africa when he returned to the United States.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Karen Williams is available to speak and share her stories on this and many of her other books. Please visit [www.karenlynnwilliams.com](http://www.karenlynnwilliams.com) for more information on the books and other information about Karen.