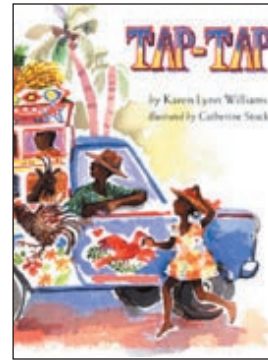




A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR TAP-TAP

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



TAP-TAP
by Karen Lynn Williams

THEMES IN THIS BOOK

- Transportation

Tap-taps are a kind of public transportation in Haiti. What kinds of public transportation do we have in the United States? In Haiti there are also automobiles, trucks, bicycles horses and donkeys which are all used for transportation. What other kinds of transportation can you think of? Do you think you would find a sleigh in Haiti? Why?

- Multicultural Life Styles (Life in Haiti)

Look at the pictures and read the story. How is life in Haiti similar to life in the US? How is it different? Look at the clothes, transportation, jobs, and foods for example.

- Jobs

In the story, Sasifi's mother is a market woman. What does she sell? What are some of the other jobs in the story? Tap-tap driver, chair seller, farmers. What are some of the jobs people have in your community?

- Determination, Persistence

Sasifi is tired and her basket is heavy. She would rather have a ride on the tap-tap than walk all the way to market. How does she show persistence and determination? Are these good qualities to have?

- Problem Solving

Sasifi has a problem. She has lost her hat. What does she do? Does she solve her problem by herself or does she wait for someone to do it for her? How do you think Sasifi feels about herself?



A tap-tap gets a "car wash" in the river.



Tap-tap's being built and repaired in Haiti.



This toy tap-tap is made from yellow tin cans.



A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR TAP-TAP continued

SUBJECT AREAS IDEAS

- **Social Studies**
Haiti is a Caribbean Country. Find Haiti on the map. It shares an island with another country. What is that country? What is the climate like in Haiti? What do people eat? How do they dress? What jobs do they have?
- **History**
Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Many people do not have jobs, they have little or no food. This is partly because of Haiti's history and the greed of government officials. And yet Haiti was at one time one of the wealthiest countries in the Caribbean and the Dominican Republic the country that shares the same small island is not as poor as Haiti. Why? What happened in Haiti's history to make it such a poor country today?
- **Art**
Even though the people in Haiti are so poor they still like to make their homes and towns beautiful. They paint brightly colored designs on their houses and tap-taps. Cut out a paper or cardboard tap-tap and use paints, crayons or markers to decorate it. Or build a tap-tap out of a discarded refrigerator box. Paint it with bright colors and go for a "ride" in it.
- **Science**
Haiti was once called the "jewel of the Antillies" but today it is an ecological disaster. Trees have been cut down to burn for charcoal and the top soil has been washed into the sea killing reefs where fish were once plentiful. What can be done to help prevent this kind of erosion? What other ecological problems exist in Haiti or other third world countries?
- **Math**
Sasifi helps her mother to sell the oranges. First she must sort them to make the piles even. What are some different ways you could sort the oranges? Sasifi also has to make change. Set up your own pretend market and make change for the things you sell. Determine the price of your oranges and how many you would have to sell if you wanted to buy a hat for \$1.50 and still have enough left over to ride the Tap-tap for .25 one way.



Tap-Tap's throughout Haiti.

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 for more information on the books and other information about Karen.