

A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR SPIRIT OF THE CHEETAH

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

THEMES IN THIS BOOK

- Family

Who are the family members mentioned in the story? How do they help Roblay to succeed in his goal to become a man?

- Persistence

Look up the word persistence. What does it mean? How does Roblay show persistence? Can you think of a time you had to be persistent?

- Culture

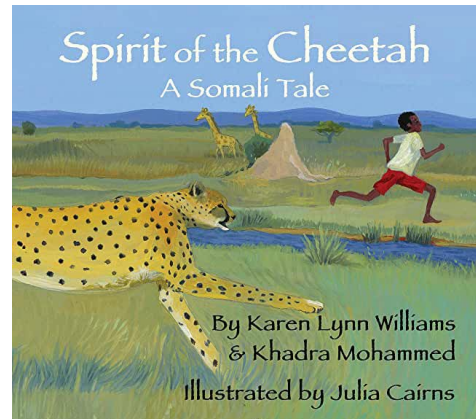
Culture refers to beliefs, arts, laws, habits of a group of people. Customs, food, music literature can be part of a culture. What are some things mentioned in the story that are part of Roblay's culture? Talk about what your own culture is with your parents or other family members. What are some of the things that make your culture special? Share these with the class.

- Tradition

A tradition can be a practice or belief that is passed down through generations of people in a group. What is the tradition that Awowoo tells Roblay about in his culture? Talk to your family about special traditions your family follows. Share these traditions with the class.

- Endangered Species

What is an endangered species? Why do you think the cheetah has become endangered. Do some research on cheetahs. Give a report to your class. How can you work together to help protect cheetahs? Educate your school or community. Make posters to put up around your school. Have a bake sale to raise money for an organization that helps to protect cheetahs. Read the book *Chasing Cheetahs: The Race to Save Africa's Fastest Cat* by Sy Montgomery. Check out this Save the Cheetah Organization <https://cheetah.org>



SPIRIT OF THE CHEETAH

by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed

VOCABULARY

Fetch

Mangos

Prove

Declared

Swift

Clan

Roam



Cheetah

A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR **SPIRIT OF THE CHEETAH** continued

SUBJECT AREAS IDEAS

- Physical education

Jogging is good exercise. You can run on your own or with a friend. Clock how far you ran. Time yourself. You could organize a race or sign up for a team or a community race. In the story Roblay prepares for the big race. How can you prepare? How can you improve your distance or speed?

Seven Stones is a traditional game played in countries around the world. There are many variations of the game. It is a simple game that just needs some type of ball, seven stones and some open space. You can research the game here https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_stones Make up your own rules.

- Social Studies/Geography

Find Somalia on a map. What continent is it on? What do you think the weather is like there? What is the capital of Somalia? Somalia is surrounded by an ocean and a sea. What are they? Find the Shabelle River on a map of Somalia.

- Language Arts

In the story Roblay wants to win the race to prove he is a man. Why do you think he did not succeed the first time he ran the race? What does Awoowo tell him he must do to be successful? What does Roblay learn from the cheetah? Awoowo says, "You became a man even before the race began." What do you think he means? Tell the class or write about a time that you worked hard for something you wanted to achieve. Write a poem with one of these words for the title: Courage, Grace, Speed.



Cheetah

- Science

There are a number of endangered species around the world. What does it mean to be endangered? Some animals are in more danger than others of becoming extinct than others. You can research these animals on the internet. Here are two sites that list animals at risk of disappearing : <https://awionline.org/content/list-endangered-species> and <https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/directory?page=2> Pick one of these animals. Write a report to present to the class. Why are these animals in danger? How can we help to keep them from becoming extinct?

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.