

APPENDIX V – 164

Appendix V: Culture Kit Check List



Worlds of Words

Guidelines for Language and Culture Book Kits

- Select 12-15 picture books with 3-4 novels, focusing on books that are good read-alouds.
- Include a range of genres – traditional literature, historical fiction, information books, poetry, and contemporary fiction.
- Balance historical fiction and folklore with contemporary fiction and information books.
- Select books that show the diversity of the culture, such as rural/urban, different social classes, range of ethnic groups within the culture, etc.
- Include some books which highlight common universal values and other books that highlight cultural differences and specific values within that culture.
- Include a book that raises issues for readers and can be used to discuss common stereotypes of that culture.
- Select books originally written and published within the culture and then translated to English or books published by an immigrant from that culture so that insider perspectives are included in the literature.
- Check the cultural authenticity of all books through reviews and critiques by cultural insiders.
- Include books in the language of that culture, particularly bilingual books and companion books (separate editions of the same book in English and in the language of the culture). Books in the language of the culture should be simple with strong illustrations and a small amount of print so as not overwhelm readers. Include an audio recording of a native speaker reading the book and a written translation into English.
- Include one common book in the language of the culture that is already well known to readers (*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*).
- Include music specific to that culture
- Select simple language learning workbooks and charts
- Include a list of web sites that provide cultural information and ideas for language study.