



The Booklist Project



Focus: Tibetan Culture

Grade Span: 3-5

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TESL 507
Book List Project

This book list is meant as a tool for teachers of ELL students who come from the Tibetan culture and would be interested in either learning more about their culture or need some literature that they can connect with on a more personal level. I geared my search of books toward the three to five grade levels.

In producing this collection of books, I have found some websites that helped me to obtain background knowledge and provide me with lesson planning.

- <http://mommypoppins.com/ny-kids/take-your-kids-to-tibet-for-the-afternoon>
- <http://www.globalsourcenetwork.org/TibetHome.htm>
- https://www.indiana.edu/~iaunrc/outreach/lesson_plans/tibet/Tibet%20-%20Full%20Lesson%20Plan.pdf

1. Dolphin, Lauren & Johnson, Nancy Jo. (1997). *Our Journey from Tibet*. New York: Dutton Children's Books. [ISBN: 0-525-45577-9].

Summary: This book is written in first-person, and tells the story of Sonam's illegal escape from her homeland with her two older sisters and their Buddhist monk brother to pursue a traditional Tibetan education in Dharamsala, India.

Illustrations: photography

Language: English

Grade Level: 5th, 650L

ELL WIDA Level: 4:Expanding

2. Gerstein, Mordicai. (1987). *The Mountains of Tibet*. Harper & Row. [ISBN: 0-06-022149-6].

Summary: After dying, a Tibetan woodcutter is given the choice of going to heaven or living another life anywhere in the universe. This book is based on the 'Tibetan Book of the Dead.' It is a wonderful book to introduce children to the endless cycle of birth, old age, death, and rebirth.

Illustrations: pastel

Language: English

Grade Level: 3rd, 400L

ELL WIDA Level: 3:Developing

3. Demi. (1998). *The Dalai Lama*. New York: Henry Holt & Company. [ISBN: 0-8050-5443-x].

Summary: This book is a biography of the fourteenth Dalai Lama of Tibet. It takes the reader through the life of the Dalai Lama from the age of two years old to

adulthood. It provides information on the political and religious role of the Dalai Lama.

Illustrations: gouache, watercolor and ink on vellum.

Language: English

Grade Level: 4th, 650L

ELL WIDA Level: 5:Bridging

4. Rose, C. Naomi. (2004). *Tibetan Tales for Little Buddhas*. Santa Fe: Clear Light Publishing.
[ISBN: 1-57416-081-8].

Summary: This book tells three Tibetan folktales, the first, a boy's horse goes missing and he learns not to judge events as good fortune or bad. In the second, a mistreated young girl encounters a goddess and absorbs her strength; and in the last, a young monk encounters a wounded Yeti and learns to overcome his fears and to practice loving kindness.

Illustrations: acrylic

Language: English and Tibetan

Grade Level: 3rd, 450L

ELL WIDA Level: 4:Expanding/Bridging

{www.naomicrose.com}

5. Rose, C. Naomi. (2009). *Tibetan Tales from the Top of the World*. Santa Fe: Clear Light Publishing.
[ISBN: 978-1-57416-089-5].

Summary: This is a follow-up to *Tibetan Tales for Little Buddhas*. It tells three wisdom tales, the first, Prince Jampa learns things might not be as they seem. In the second, Sonam is accused of stealing which leads her to finally make things right for her cousin; and in the last, a young boy named Tashi learns the important lesson of sharing.

Illustrations: acrylic

Language: English and Tibetan

Grade Level: 3rd, 450L

ELL WIDA Level: 5:Bridging

6. Reynolds, Jan. (1991). *Himalaya, Vanishing Culture*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers.
[ISBN: 0-15-234465-9].

Summary: Economic development, technological growth, and environmental degradation have affected the lives of all people on this planet. However, modernization has changed the way of life more slowly across generations for some people living deep in the Himalayas. This book provides a glimpse of societies in that

region, and what families do for work, when practicing their beliefs and the cultural interaction in their community.

Illustrations: Photography

Language: English

Grade Level: 5th, 650L

ELL WIDA Level: 4:Expanding

7. Halpern, Gina. (2011). *Where's Tibet?* Ithaca: Snow Lion Publications
[ISBN: 978-1559393836]

Summary: Pema and Tashi, two Tibetan children, go on a spiritual journey to find their homeland. While on this geographical journey they learn to treasure Tibet in their hearts and find a place of peace within themselves.

Illustrations: watercolor and colored pencil

Language: Tibetan, Tibetan phonetic pronunciation and English

Grade Level: 3rd, 550L

ELL WIDA Level: 3:Developing

8. Soros, Barbara. & Danuta Mayer. (2003). *Tenzin's Deer*. Cambridge: Barefoot Books.
[ISBN: 1-84148-811-9]

Summary: In this Tibetan tale Tenzin, a kind-hearted boy discovers a wounded musk deer high up in the hills. Tenzin nurses the deer back to health, and then must learn the most important lesson of all: how to love enough to let go.

Illustration: gouache and ink.

Language: English

Grade Level: 5th, 700L

ELL WIDA Level: 4:Expanding

{<http://coolkidlit-4-socialstudies.pbworks.com/w/page/16473274/Tenzin>}

9. Lewis, P. Thomas. & Erroll LeCain. (1974). *The Dragon Kite*. Canada: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
[ISBN: 0-03-091961-4]

Summary: Young Kesang on his eighth birthday decides to join a lamasery in the high Himalayas in order to follow his calling as a Tibetan priest. Before he does this, he has an exciting ride on the Great Dragon kite.

Illustrations: ink and watercolor.

Language: English.

Grade Level: 2nd, 250L

ELL WIDA Level: 2: Late Beginning/Developing

10. Trottier, Maxine, Laura Fernandez & Rick Jacobson. (2000). *Little Dog Moon*. Canada: Stoddart Kids.
[ISBN:0-7737-3220-9]

Summary: Tenzin lives in a monastery with his constant companion, a Tibetan terrier named Moon. One day two cold and hungry children arrive at the door. They are attempting to cross the mountains to freedom in Nepal, traveling in winter when the passes are not as closely guarded. Their mother has given them a prayer flag to fly when they reach their destination, so the prayers can return to her assuring their safety. Tenzin gives another gift to the children, his confidant, Moon to guide them safely to Nepal.

Illustrations: acrylic

Language: English

Grade Level: 4th, 700L

ELL WIDA Level: 4:Expanding

11. Anshumani Ruddra, Gwangjo & Jung-a Park. *Dorje's Stripes*. (2010). Tulsa: Kane Miller.
[ISBN:978-935279-98-3]

Summary: This book is about a Royal Bengal Tiger named Dorje who is sheltered by a monastery in the Himalayas. When Dorje first came to the monastery, he had been very badly treated by humans, and he had lost his stripes. A monk witnesses Dorje's anguish and decides to try to understand, help, and comfort him by entering his dreams. He learns that Dorje is gradually witnessing the dying out of his species. Every time a tiger dies, Dorje loses a stripe. This is what has driven him all the way from Bengal to Tibet. But one day a monk notices a new stripe on Dorje. He has met a female tiger and mated, and there is hope that the Royal Bengal tiger clan may once again thrive.

Illustrations: watercolor

Language: English

Grade Level: 3rd, 350L

ELL WIDA Level: 3:Developing

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