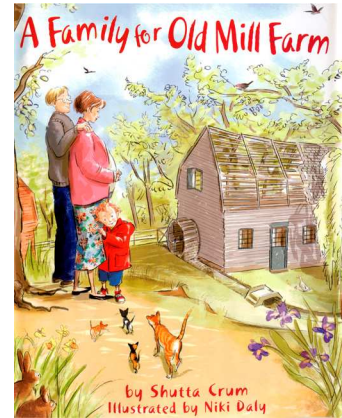


A Family for Old Mill Farm

A raccoon real estate agent is showing his animal clients Old Mill Farm. At the same time, a human Realtor™ is trying to find a suitable house for a human family. Finally, the tired Realtor™ suggests one last possibility, a tumbledown property called Old Mill Farm.

"This lighthearted real-estate review rendered in verse text and amusing watercolor and digital-media illustrations eventually unites human and animal buyers in the pastoral perfection of Old Mill Farm." – Kirkus Reviews © 2007

". . . cleverly celebrate(s) the importance of turning an unfamiliar house into a beloved home." – School Library Journal © 2007



Written by Shutta Crum
Illustrated by Niki Daly
Clarion © 2007
ISBN 0-618-42846-1
for ages 4-9

CLASSROOM EXTENSION IDEAS

ANIMALS

The animals in A FAMILY FOR OLD MILL FARM declare that the run-down farm is “perfect” for their families. Discuss animal habitats and what the needs are for different animals. What about humans? Can we live in a variety of habitats and why are we able to do that?

DAILY LIFE

Around the world there are different terms for types of houses. Make a list of all the terms used by people speaking English. Now start listing terms from languages spoken in other countries. Where does one find “casas?” Pinpoint countries on a map that correspond to the house words.

LANGUAGE ARTS

This book has two stories that move along together—weaving back and forth between the two. That is called having a contrapuntal plot. Take a look at my book CLICK! (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2003). It also has a contrapuntal storyline that moves back and forth from humans to bears. Can you find other books that weave two parallel stories together? Why would an author want to do this? What are the advantages? What could be possible disadvantages? Write a story using two parallel storylines.