

A SHOUT IN THE SUNSHINE

Study Guide – Classroom Use

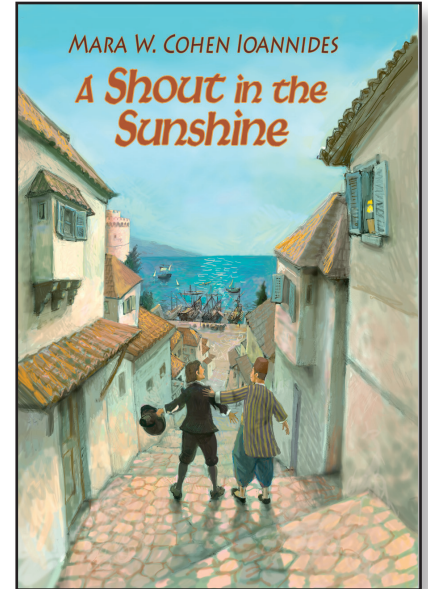
Cultural Differences

A Shout in the Sunshine is a book about cultural differences; how two boys of the same religion transcend their unique cultural practices.

- Find a holiday that everyone in the class celebrates (July 4th, New Year's Eve, etc.). Create a list of how you celebrate this holiday. Include such things as what you eat, who shares the holiday with you (family, friends), and what special things you do.

Compare your list with other students and see what they do that is similar or different from you. How would you include or combine holiday traditions if you were going to celebrate with someone else in class?

- Pick your favorite holiday and investigate how it is celebrated somewhere else in the world.



Jewish Culture

This book focus on two Jewish cultural groups: Romaniote (Greek) and Sephardim (Spanish/Portuguese).

- There were other Jewish cultural groups in Thessaloniki at the time, like the Ashkenazim and Kararites. Investigate these groups.
- Make a list of the various references in the book to cultural practices and how they differ.
- In the United States, the most common image of Jews is of Ashkenazi Jews. However, the first Jews in North America were Sephardic Jews. Interestingly, the only Romaniote synagogue outside of Greece is in New York City. Pick a Jewish holiday and find out how these three cultural groups celebrate it in the United States.

Gender Differences

Even though the story focuses on the two boys, Michael and David, their sisters are very much part of the story.

- Discuss how the lives of the boys and girls are different.
- How different are boys and girls lives now? What do boys do that girls don't and vice versa?
- What is the difference between the Sephardic concept of a well-raised girl and the Romaniote one, according to the story?