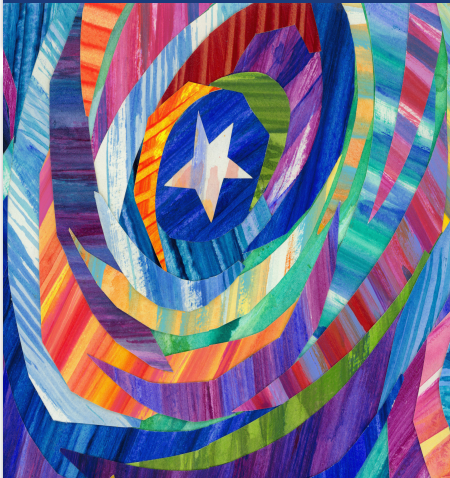


# The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



## Thank You, World

Written by Alice B. McGinty  
illustrated by Wendy  
Anderson Halperin

*Preschool edition*

### Overview of Book

Eight children from around the world share their lives by thanking the sun, the sky, the swing and other things that matter in their lives. The exquisite crayon drawings on each page show the differences and, even more, the similarities of experiences that children share around the world. How alike we all are!

Genre: Rhyming picture book/realistic fiction

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Thank You, World* to introduce in your classroom:

shining	moonlight
Country names	breeze
Windowpane	sparkling

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

### Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

*COR Advantage 1.5*

Social And Emotional  
Development

Item D (*Emotions*)

Item F (*Building relationships  
with other children*)

Creative Arts

Item X (*Art*)

Science And Technology

Item DD (*Natural and  
physical world*)

Social Studies

Item FF (*Knowledge of self  
and others*)

### Reading Tips

After reading each page, allow time for the children to see the pictures in each frame. Ask questions like, "Who else loves the blue sky?" "Who else likes to fly kites high, past the treetops?" and "Who else has someone tuck them in at night?" After children share, you can point out "We're a lot like the children in our book!" Invite the children to extend their thinking by asking, "Are there any other ways we're alike?"

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

At the end of each reading, display the book in the book area so children can read it on their own.

### **Throughout the Routine**

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Play music from one of the countries depicted in the book during **Small Group Time**. Have materials for the children to draw with while listening to the music. (Putomayo has excellent selections.)

At **Small Group Time** provide a range of materials to encourage the children to design fabrics, kites or flags.

Transfer the materials from above to the **Art Area** for extended exploration and designing efforts.

### **Around the Room**

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Post a world map and an Indiana map in the **Book Area**. Clearly mark the 8 countries in the book. Ask families where they are from and clearly add these to the maps. Celebrate by singing, "We've got the whole world in our class!"

Add global books in a range of genres to the **Book Area**—informational books like *This Is How We Do It* by Matt Lamothe and *Children Just Like Me* by Catherine Saunders and fiction like *Elizabeti's Doll* by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen.

### **Open-ended Questions**

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Thank You, World*:

What would you say thank you for? Why?

How would you travel the world to meet the children in the story?

What would you like to do if one of the children in the book came to visit you?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact*  
***The Family Connection:***

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

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### **@ Home**

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Thank You, World* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

While reading *Thank You, World* with your child, take time together to notice and talk about the similarities and differences in the lives of the children in the story. Ask questions like, "How do you swing?" "What birds do you see here?" or "How do you climb a tree?" Through the pictures, compare the chores children do and how they help their families. Look at the globes on the inside cover that highlight the countries where children in the book live. "Are people really all that different?" Share your thoughts on a shared experience like looking into the night sky. It doesn't cost a penny and people all over the world can look up at the moon and the stars. And, it's beautiful.