

Roxaboxen

By Alice McLerran

Study Guide

The Magik Theatre 2008

SUMMARY

Marian called it Roxaboxen. (She always knew the name of everything.) There across the road, it looked like any rocky hill -- nothing but sand and rocks, some old wooden boxes, cactus and greasewood and thorny ocotillo -- but it was a special place: a sparkling world of jeweled homes, streets edged with the whitest stones, and two ice cream shops. Come with us there, where all you need to gallop fast and free is a long stick and a soaring imagination. In glowing desert hues, artist Barbara Cooney has caught the magic of Alice McLerran's treasured land of Roxaboxen -- a place that really was, and, once you've been there, always is.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Who were the characters in the story?
- 2) What was their main project?
- 3) Which character did you like the most? Why?
- 4) Did you think they chose the correct person to be the mayor?
- 5) What are some of the qualities a good mayor would have?
- 6) What kind of buildings did they create in their town?
- 7) Do you think that the stores sold items that you would need, or items that you would want?
- 8) If you built your own building what would it be? Would you sell something people needed or wanted?
- 9) What kind of environment did they live in?
- 10) What kind of animals live in that environment?



[EL 110.2, 110.3, 110.4, 110.5, 110.6, 110.7; SS 113.2, 113.3, 113.4, 113.5, 113.6, 113.7]

ENVIRONMENTS

1. What kind of environment is the setting for Roxaboxen ?
2. Describe Roxaboxen's climate and landforms.
3. What kinds of animals live in that environment?
4. Think about the black pebbles that were found buried in the sand. What is a possible explanation for how they came to be buried there? Describe and explain.
5. Where do you think the seashells came from? Describe and explain.
6. What kinds of adaptations would an animal need to live in a desert?

MATCHING: Match the name to the environment.

Desert

Forest

Arctic

Rainforest



Which kind of environment would you prefer to live in? Why? How would your needs change based on living in the different environments?

DESERT ANIMALS

Which animal does NOT belong in the desert? How do you know?



[SC 112.3, 112.4, 112.5, 112.6, 112.7; SS 113.2, 113.3, 113.4, 113.5, 113.6, 113.7]

RULES

The Roxaboxen kids make a list of rules for the townspeople to follow. What kinds of rules do you think communities need and why? [SS 113.2, 113.3, 113.4]

NEEDS VERSUS WANTS

NEEDS

A **NEED** is something that a person needs to survive – a place to live is a need. List 5 things that are needs.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

WANTS

A **WANT** is something that a person does not need to survive – ice cream is a want. List 5 things that are wants.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

[SS 113.2, 113.3]



COMMUNITIES

This is a Social Studies lesson that can be adapted to fit any age group. It is a hands-on lesson where the students work in groups to work on social skills and sharing while learning about communities.

- Have you or another student in your class ever been to Roxaboxen?
- Who in your classroom has built a "make-believe" town?
- Read the story Roxaboxen.
- As a class, build your own Roxaboxen town. You should be able to explain what it takes to make a neighborhood. Everyone in the class will be a part of it, because everyone together is what makes a neighborhood.
- Discuss some of the different people who make up the neighborhood in the story.
- What roles would you want to play in your town? And what building do you want to be in charge of or build?
- How would you carry out your role?
- Share your ideas with in the class.
- Write the roles/ideas on the board.
- It is okay if there are more than one of anything. Part of being a community is being able to get along and share. The idea of this lesson is for each learner to assume a different role in your classroom community.
- Now you are going to take the ideas that the class chose and build a classroom version of the Roxaboxen town.
- You will be given a sheet of tag-board and can choose some of the other materials to build your building.
- Once you have your materials, start working.
- When the whole class is finished, talk about what made building your community easy or difficult.

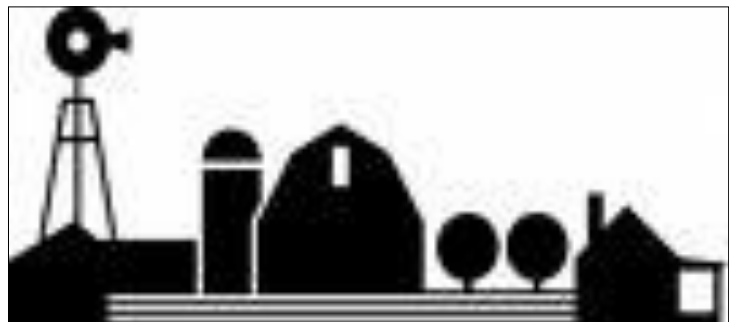
[SS 113.2, 113.3, 113.4, 113.5, 113.6, 113.7]

Websites:

<http://www.alicemclerran.com>

[http://www.billandkathie.net/
Roxaboxen.htm](http://www.billandkathie.net/Roxaboxen.htm)

<http://www.magiktheatre.org>



WORD SEARCH

X F P F S P R O Y A M Y G
X F C A E W O K Q T P Q A
L U S Z A T X H S E E K L
Z F T H S V A U U E R P L
P N I A O I B J T R U M O
L M D Y N H O Y C T S D P
R G N G S P X R A S A K J
D A A O H Z E E C N E W R
E S B X K J N T I I R M M
S E Q W I H J T I A T B U
E K U B W T A O M M S V T

AMETHYST

BANDITS

MAYOR

POTTERY

CACTUS

ROXABOXEN

DESERT

SEASON

GALLOP

TREASURE

MAIN STREET

Several TEKS (117.4, 117.7, 117.10, 117.13, 117.16, 117.19) are covered just by attending a production at The Magik Theatre, including:

The learner will

- identify appropriate audience behavior;
- respond to and evaluate dramatic activities;
- identify the use of music, creative movement and visual components in play; and
- observe the performance of artists and identify theatrical vocations.