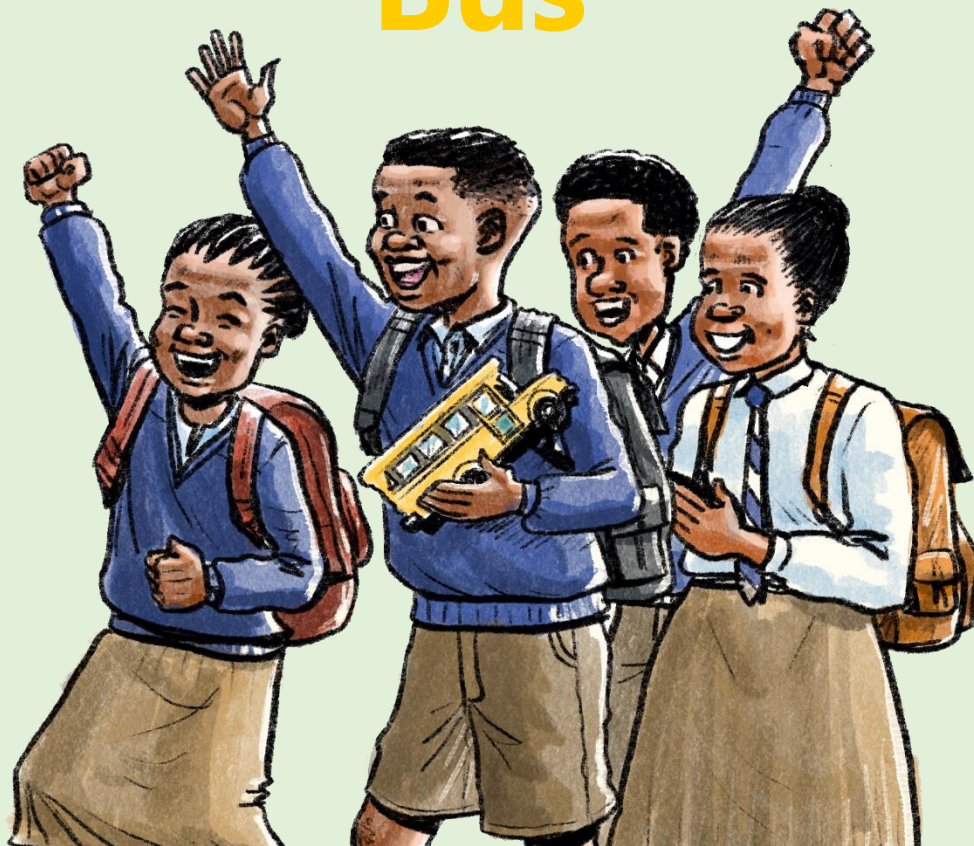


**Educational
Resource
Guide**

The Walking School Bus



GREYSTONE
BOOKS



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Title: The Walking School Bus

Author(s): Aaron Friedland and Ndileka Mandela

Illustrator: Andrew Jackson Obol

Genre: Picture Book

Guided Reading Level: O

Lexile Level: AD590L

Suitable for: Ages 4—8

Curriculum Connections:

Diverse Cultures / Global Interconnections / Imagination /
Problem-Solving / Resourcefulness

Before reading questions:

- Start by discussing the title of the book. What do you think the book will be about?
- Discuss the scene on the cover. What are some context clues on the cover that hint to what the story will be about?
- What are some things you can do to figure out unknown words in a story?
 - *Teaching hint: A great way to figure out unknown words is to look at the other words surrounding it. Sometimes, the illustrations can also help. These contextual clues can help give us clues to what is occurring in the story.*

Exploring a New Culture Through Words

Co-author Ndileka Mandela includes some words from her native language, Xhosa, in the book. What do these words mean in English?

Write down what you think they mean and then discuss the definitions as a class.

- *Helpful hint: Remember to remind young readers that using context clues can be a helpful tool during this exercise. Mandela's opening note may also be a helpful tool.*

Unknown word	I think it means. . .	Definition
Umama		
Ubaba		
Watoto		
Shosholoza		

Creative Activity: Sketching your own adventure to school!

Draw your favorite scene from the book or create a new scene that shows how you get to school. Remember to draw yourself in the scene and think about all of the different things you may see, hear, smell, and/or feel on your travels.



After Activity Discussion:

- What kinds of things do you see on your way to school?
Compare and contrast as a class. Think about different seasons and the different things you may see when you walk, drive, bike, or take public transit.
 - What helps you feel safe when you are traveling to school?
 - How do you help your classmates feel safe and respected?
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A bit more about the co-authors:

Aaron Friedland is the founder and executive director of the Simbi Foundation, which provides support for children around the world who face difficulties in accessing education. The interviews he conducted with children in rural Africa and India inspired the story of *The Walking School Bus*, his first book.

Ndileka Mandela is an activist, author, and head of the Thembekile Mandela Foundation, which continues the legacy of her grandfather Nelson Mandela by supporting education and health in rural South Africa.

