

The Soda Bottle School

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

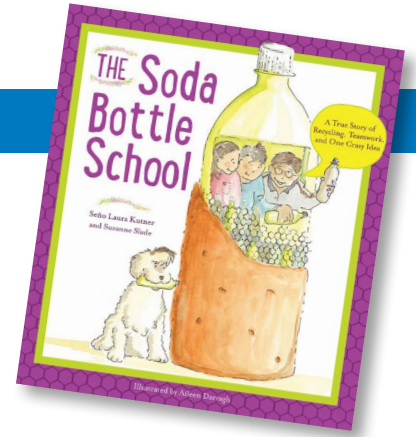
Themes: Recycling, Ecology, Problem Solving, Innovation, Guatemalan Culture

Book Brief: A Guatemalan village is overrun with trash. A young student named Fernando and his teacher come up with a crazy plan to turn the trash into an unexpected treasure.

Author: Seño Laura Kutner and Suzanne Slade

Illustrator:
Aileen Darragh

Content Connections:
Science, Math



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: What might the author mean by a “soda bottle school”? Do you think the cover picture shows what will happen in the story? Explain.

The Pictures: What can you tell about the village of Granados, the setting of the

story? What is the *topography* of the area? What natural resources might or might not be available?

Prior Knowledge: Find Guatemala on a world map or globe. Based on this country's location, what type of climate would be common?

Vocabulary: eco-ladrillo, caliente, Mayan, topography

Purpose for Reading: While reading, think about how Fernando develops a plan to complete the school project and inspires others to help him.

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What is the difference between a village and a city?
- ◆ Why might it be difficult to learn in Fernando's school?
- ◆ What did the villagers do before other countries sent products to them?
- ◆ Who do you think actually came up with the idea? Fernando, Seño Laura, or both?

- ◆ Why does their idea create so much excitement?
- ◆ Could the children do this on their own?
- ◆ What skills did the children gain while helping with the project?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: How did Fernando explain how he wanted to use the bottles and excite others to help? What strategies did he use?

Extending Our Thinking: Can you think of other stories where one person has an idea that makes a global impact? Discuss with a partner what the word “community” means. How does the climate of the area affect this project? Could bottle schools be built anywhere? Explain.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is
Fundamental