

Joseph's Cradle

Author / Illustrator: Jude Daly

Published by Otter-Barry Books

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Synopsis:

A heartwarming story about an African village and the importance of community and traditions

At the heart of Joseph's African village is a great tree, and the villagers have lived contentedly for generations in its shelter. When the tree falls down,

Joseph carves a beautiful cradle for his first child, Sisi. And so begins a very special tradition... Every new baby in the village is rocked in Joseph's cradle, and has her or his name carved on it. But when Joseph's house is burned down in a fire, the precious cradle disappears...

Will the old traditions be lost too, or will Joseph and his cradle return to the village?

- A heartwarming story with a strong sense of community and tradition
- Celebrates traditional crafts and creativity

Shows the importance of renewal as well as continuity

Author / Illustrator Bio

Jude Daly is an internationally renowned South African author and illustrator whose distinctions include an IBBY Illustrator Honour Book award and South Africa's Katrine Harries Award (twice).

Born in London, she grew up in South Africa. She is also the author and illustrator of *Six Blind Mice* and *the Elephant* for Otter-Barry Books. She and her husband, the author Niki Daly, live in Kleimond, Cape Province, South Africa.



Curriculum Links

English

[ACELT1582](#)

[ACELT1596](#)

HASS Foundation—Home

[ACHASSK015](#)

HASS Year 1—Celebrations/Traditions

[ACHASSK028](#)

[ACHASSK029](#)

HASS Year 3— Community

[ACHASSK063](#)

Themes:

Family

Home

Culture

Tradition

Celebration

Community

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

- Look at the front cover of the book.
- Read the title together.
- Look at the other names on the book. What are they there for.
- Identify the author and the illustrator. There's only one name on this book. What does that mean? What do the author and illustrator do.
- From the picture on the cover, what do you think the story will be about?
- Read the blurb at the back of the book. What do you feel about it? What kind of things are you now expecting to see inside the book? What questions do you have?

After reading the first reading of the book, ask what the readers thought of the story. Read the book again, this time stop and talk about what's happening in the story.

Look at where Joseph lives.

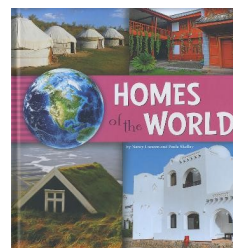
Talk about what Joseph's house village looks like.

Look at the different kind of houses.

Notice that in most pictures the door to the houses are always open. Why might this be?

Look at different houses around the world, and talk about why they might all look different.

<http://www.kidcyber.com.au/houses-around-the-world>



Celebrations/Traditions

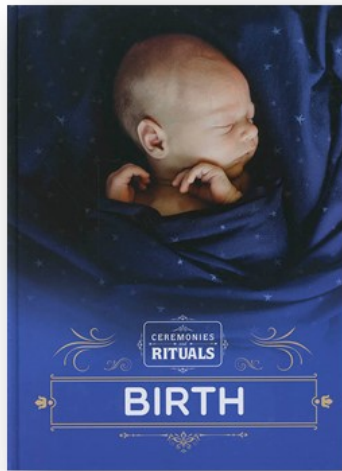
This story is set in Africa, but the origin of the story is Australian. Read the Authors note at the back of the book.

See this link for more information:

<https://wikinorthia.net.au/the-cradle-of-st-andrews/>

Discuss as a class if they have had a new brother or sister in the family.

Ask if there's anything special they do when a new baby is born in their family.



Ceremonies and Rituals: Birth

This diverse and interesting series takes a look at ceremonies and rituals that celebrate and commemorate the defining moments in our lives. Through informative text and engaging, vibrant imagery, children can explore the traditions, ceremonies, and rites of passage that mark the lives of the followers of the world's major religions and worldviews.

The birth of a baby is a time for happiness and thanksgiving.

Around the world most societies and cultures celebrate the arrival of a new baby with traditions rituals and ceremonies.

First Laugh Welcome Baby!

The First Laugh Ceremony is a celebration held to welcome a new member of the community. As everyone--from Baby's nima (mom) to nadi (big sister) to cheii (grandfather)--tries to elicit the joyous sound from Baby, readers are introduced to details about Navajo life and the Navajo names for family members.



Back matter includes information about other cultural ceremonies that welcome new babies and children, including man yue celebration (China), sanskaras (Hindu) and aquiqa (Muslim).