

Title of book: *Sami and the Time of Troubles*

Author: Florence Parry Heide and Judith Heide Gilliland

Illustrator: Ted Lewin

Publisher: Clarion Books

Copyright year: 1992

Reading level: 3rd grade – 5th grade

Genre: Multicultural

SYNOPSIS OF STORY: Ten year old Sami lives with his family in Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. While Beirut used to be one of the most splendid cities in the world, it is now a place of trouble and ruin. Sami, his mom, and his sister live with their uncle and grandpa in the basement of their uncle's house. Through the hard times they tell stories of how it used to be. Sometimes it is quiet and they can go outside to play.

THEME: Children during wartime, Civil War in Lebanon

ACTIVITY ONE:

- **Source:** Elaine from www.LessonPlansPage.com - complete lesson attached
- **Objective:** The students will write a letter to Sami from the book. The students will participate in a class or small group discussion by orally presenting their letter to people in their group or class.
- **Description of Activity:** After reading, we will have a whole class discussion to come up with ideas about what to write to Sami. The teacher will write the student's responses on the board. After the class has come up with a good list the students will individually write a rough draft of a letter to Sami to tell him about them and their country, to ask him how his is doing, and anything else from the compiled list on the board they want to talk about. After the students have completed their first draft they will peer edit a classmate's letter and revise their own. Finally the student will write their final on a piece of stationary paper.

ACTIVITY TWO:

- **Source:** *101 Ways to Love a Book* by Melissa Hart, M.F.A. – Teacher Created Resources, Inc.
- **Objective:** The students will create a crayon rubbing illustration of their favorite scene/part of the book.
- **Description of Activity:**
Crayon Rubbing Illustrations – First, cover your paper completely with splotches of different colors – all except black. Then, color over the top of these colors with your black crayon. Cover the paper completely. Finally use the edge of a pair of scissors to etch out an interesting scene from *Sami and the Time of Troubles*. As you scrape away the black crayon, the colored crayons will show through, creating an extraordinary picture. Vary the width of your lines, experimenting with thick, thin, and wavy etchings.