Lesson Plan # 6
*Sitti’s Secrets* by Naomi Shihab

**Standards:** See Curriculum Map for description of standards:
www.jenmcm04.wordpress.com/curriculum-map

SS: 3.1
SS: 3.2
SS: 3.3
SS: 3.7
SS: 3.8
SS: 3.10
SS: 3.13

CCELA
RS for Literature grade 3:
1, 2, 3, 7, 11
RS for Information:
7, 9, 10
Writing:
3:a-d
Speaking and Listening:
1: a-e

**Essential Questions:**

- How could you communicate with someone who speaks another language than you do?

- Mona and her cousins were able to interact even though they could not speak the same language. What things did they do together?

- Where is Palestine located?

- What types of food does Sitti make and eat?
Objectives:

• Students will discuss ways that we can communicate with others if we don’t speak the same language.

• Students will speak for understanding.

• Students will locate on a globe where Palestine is.

Materials:

• Story *Sitti’s Secrets* by Naomi Shihab Nye
• Globe of the Earth

Instructional Plan:

• Show the students the globe of the Earth. Have the students locate where they live and then locate Palestine.

• Discuss that Palestine is on the other side of the Earth. When it is daytime in the United States it is in the middle of the night in Palestine.

• Read *Sitti’s Secrets*. Mona goes to visit her grandmother in Palestine. They both speak different languages and cannot communicate with each other. How are they able to communicate and interact?

• Have the students discuss the different clothing worn by Mona and her grandmother. Ask the students what is unique about the way Sitti dresses. How does Mona show respect for the way her grandmother dresses, especially her headscarf?

• In the story Mona plays games with her cousins and their neighbors even though they couldn’t communicate with one another. Ask the students what types of games can be played without having to talk.

• Mona’s grandmother eats certain foods for breakfast. Have the students compare and contrast foods they eat and how they are prepared to what foods Sitti prepares and eats.

• Ask the students what Mona means when she says that Sitti has striped hair.

• Mona is very sad when her visit with her grandmother ends and she has to return home to the U.S. Have you ever gone to visit someone far away and if so how did you feel when you had to leave?

• Do you think it is easy for Mona to communicate with her grandmother? Why or why not.

• Have the students work in pairs and try to communicate with each other without using words. After five minutes allow the students to share how they felt trying to communicate with someone who doesn’t speak the same language as they do.

Assessment:

• Students will locate on a map where Palestine is.

• Role-play on how to communicate with others without speaking.