



Multicultural Children's Literature Book Series Section

Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)

Maggie's Childhood – written by a Cambodian – American educator and Georgia resident Chanreksmey Kim. The book's educational context aligned well with the **Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)** to support elementary-level English Language Arts (ELA), reflecting cultural diversity studies and social-emotional learning (SEL) frameworks.

1. Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)

- **Key Ideas & Details (ELAGSE.RL.1, RL.2, RL.3):**

- *K-2: Ask and answer key details about character traits, settings, and main events. (e.g., How does Maggie's grandma support her during hard time(s)?)*
- *3-5: Summarize the text, determine the central message/ theme (family tradition, cultural identity), and explain how characters respond to challenges.*

- **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas (ELAGSE.RL.7, RL.9):**

- Compare and contrast Maggie's Childhood family traditions with students' own families and traditions.
- Analyze how illustrations contribute to the setting and emotional tone.

- **Writing & Language (ELA)**

- **Narrative Writing (ELAGSE.W.3):**

Prompt: "Write a personal narrative about a favorite memory, tradition, or belief shared within your own family."

- **Vocabulary Acquisition & Use (ELAGSE.L.4, L.5):**

Explore context-based vocabulary related to culture, community, perseverance, and Southeast Asian traditions.

- **Social Studies (GSE Alignment):**

- **Cultural Understanding & Geography (SSKCG1, SS1G1, SS3G1):**

- Identify world geography (Cambodia/ Southeast Asia) and recognize how location influences daily life, food, and culture.
- Discuss how diverse beliefs and traditions contribute to our shared global community.

2. Educator Take-Home Toolkit

- **Book Overview & Metadata:**

- Title: **Maggie's Childhood**
- Target - Grades K-5 (Read-Aloud for K-2; Independent Reading for 3-5)
- Core Themes: Cultural Heritage (Cambodia/ Southeast Asia), Family Resilience, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), Identity, Belonging.

- **Standard Alignment Box:**

ELAGSE. RL. 1-3, ELAGSE. W.3, and SS1G1.

▪ **Pre-Reading & Post-Reading Discussion Prompts:**

- **Before Reading:** *“What are some traditions or values your family passes down?”*
- **During Reading:** “Maggie’s Family says: “Family is everything. How do Maggie’s family members show unconditional love when spending family time together?”
- **After reading:** “How did Maggie build inner strength and resilience? What makes your own home or community a place of safety and strength?”

Printable Classroom Activities Cards:

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY 1: CULTURAL HERITAGE MAP

- **Objective:** Connect literature to geography and cultural diversity.
- **Activity:** Students draw or map Maggie's journey from Cambodia and pinpoint their own family's roots on a classroom world map.
- **Focus:** Celebrating differences while recognizing universal childhood values.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY 2: "FAMILY TREE OF VALUES"

- **Objective:** Narrative writing and SEL connection.
- **Activity:** Students create a "Tree of Values" leaf-by-leaf. On each leaf, they write a phrase or story told by an elder or family member that gives them strength (inspired by Maggie's family motto).

EDUCATOR QUICK-GUIDE & LESSON FRAMEWORK

Maggie Book One: *Maggie's Childhood*

Author: Chanreamsmy Kim / AmCam Group - Education



Target Grade Band: K-5th Grade.

- Read-Aloud for Grades K–2.
- Guided & Independent Reading for Grades 3–5.

Core Themes: Cultural Diversity, Family Traditions & Resilience, Global Heritage (Cambodia / Southeast Asia), Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), Personal Identity.

Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) Alignment

▪ Reading Literary Text (ELA):

- **ELAGSE.RL.1:** Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of key details in the text.
- **ELAGSE.RL.2:** Recount stories; determine the central message, lesson, or moral (family resilience, unconditional love, cultural pride).
- **ELAGSE.RL.3:** Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
- **ELAGSE.RL.7:** Use information gained from illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of characters, setting, or plot.

▪ Writing & Language (ELA):

- **ELAGSE.W.3:** Write narratives recounting two or more appropriately sequenced events, including details regarding feelings and temporal words.
- **ELAGSE.L.4 / L.5:** Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings (e.g., *resilience*, *heritage*, *traditions*, *support*).

▪ Social Studies Connections:

- **SSKCG1 / SS1G1 / SS3G1:** Express cultural similarities and differences across world geography and human heritage.

Key Vocabulary & Essential Questions:

Key Vocabulary Words

- **Heritage & Culture:** Customary beliefs, social forms, material traits, and traditions passed down through generations.
- **Resilience:** The ability to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions or life changes.
- **Unconditional Love:** Love without limitations or qualifications; steadfast support through good times and hard times.
- **Family Reunion:** is defined as a social gathering where all members of the family – including grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins come together to reconnect, celebrate their shared heritage, and strengthen family relationships (usually after a certain period of separation).
- **Community:** A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.

Essential Questions (EQs)

1. How do family traditions and shared beliefs give us strength during challenging times?
2. How does learning about childhood experiences in other countries broaden our understanding of the world?
3. What does Maggie's story teach us about overcoming adversity and finding inner strength?

Instructional Sequence

1. Before Reading (Building Schema & Cultural Context)

- **Visual Warm-Up:** Show the book cover illustration. Ask students: *"Where do you think this story takes place? What clues do you see in the clothing, nature, and building styles?"*
- **Geography & Heritage Connection:** Locate Cambodia on a world map. Briefly explain that Maggie grew up in Southeast Asia in a loving family after a period of history where her community had to rebuild.
- **Personal Connection:** Ask students to pair-share: *"What is one value, rule, or saying that your family or elders teach you at home?"*

2. During Reading (Guided Active Listening)

- **Pause at Key Moments:**
 - **Page Focus (Family Bonds):** Read Maggie's family motto: *"Family is everything. No matter how high you rise or how hard you fall... You will always have a home."* Ask students to turn to a partner and rephrase the motto in their own words.
 - **Page Focus (Illustrations & Setting):** Have students point out details in the realistic artwork showing everyday life, nature, and cultural elements in Cambodia.

3. After Reading (Discussion & Reflection)

- How did Maggie's family help her build confidence and courage?

- In what ways is Maggie's childhood similar to or different from your own? What universal human experiences do we share?

PAGE 2: PRINTABLE CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES & WRITING PROMPTS

Classroom Activity 1:

The "Family Tree of Strengths" (SEL & Narrative Writing)

Standard Connection: ELAGSE.W.3, ELAGSE.RL.2

Objective:

Students reflect on Maggie's family motto and identify positive values or supportive traditions handed down by their own families or caring adults.

Student Instructions:

1. **Draw Your Tree:** On a sheet of paper, draw the trunk and main branches of a tree. Label the trunk with your name or family name.
2. **Add Value Leaves:** On each leaf attached to the branches, write one word or phrase that a family member, elder, or teacher has taught you that gives you strength (e.g., "*Never give up*," "*Kindness matters*," "*Always try your best*").
3. **Write a Short Reflection:** Below your drawing, complete the following writing prompt:
"Maggie learned that family gives her strength. One value or tradition my family passes down to me is..."

Classroom Activity 2:

"Bridge to Cambodia" Cultural Inquiry (Social Studies & ELA)

Standard Connection: ELAGSE.RL.7, SS1G1

Objective

Students compare and contrast cultural elements from Maggie's childhood in Cambodia with their own daily life to foster global perspective and empathy.

Graphic Organizer: Venn Diagram Comparison:

Maggie's Childhood (Cambodia)

- Southeast Asian customs and scenery.
- Specific family traditions and foods.

Shared Experiences (Both)

- Love from family and elders.
- Play, learning, and growth.

My Life & Community

- Local neighborhood traditions.
- Personal family customs.

Maggie's Childhood (Cambodia)

- Local language and heritage.

Shared Experiences (Both)

- Overcoming challenges.

My Life & Community

- Favorite hobbies and school life.

Classroom Discussion Starter:

"Even though Maggie lived across the world in Cambodia, what are some feelings and experiences that make her story relatable to kids everywhere?"

Classroom Extension & Extension Center Ideas:

- **Classroom Library Book Nook:** Create a "Multicultural Voices" reading corner pairing *Maggie's Childhood* with other global children's literature.
- **Story Circle / Read-Aloud Extension:** Invite students to bring an object, recipe card, or photo that represents their cultural heritage or family tradition to share during Show & Tell.
- **Author Visit / Virtual Q&A Request:** Include your contact details so teachers can request an author read-aloud or school presentation!

Author & Order Contact Information:

- **Book Title:** *Maggie Book One: Maggie's Childhood*
- **Series:** Maggie — A Multicultural Children's Literature Book Series
- **Website:** www.amcamgroup.com/education
- **Contact Email:** info@amcamgroup.com | **Phone:** 678-236-4417
- **Location:** 3675 Crestwood Parkway, Suite 400, Duluth, GA 30096