



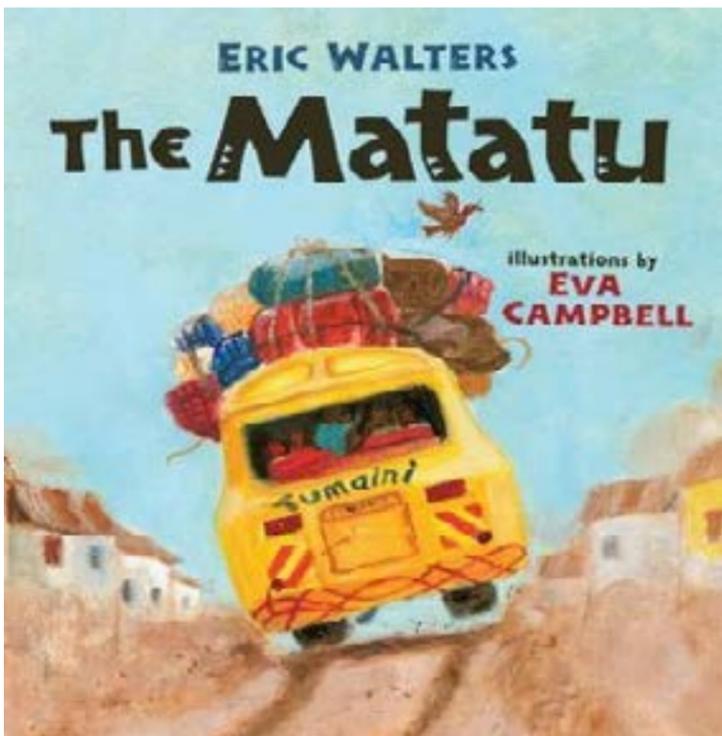
## *Bringing Africa to your Classroom*

### *The Matatu* by Eric Walters

#### *Topics Covered | Things to Introduce:*

- Swahili Language
- Modes of Transportation
- Animals
- Stories from grandparents

- Level: Primary, Age 4 - 8
- Country Focus: Kenya
- Language Focus: Kiswahili



**K**ioko had been watching the matatus come and go for as long as he could remember. But today, for his fifth birthday, he climbs aboard one with his grandfather. As the matatu pulls away from the market, the village dogs chase after them. When Kioko asks his grandfather why the dogs always bark and chase after matatus, his grandfather tells him an entertaining tale about a dog, a goat and a sheep. Set in East Africa, *The Matatu* is a colorful story filled with many unexpected turns and twists along the way.

#### **From Author's Blog: About Eric Walters**

It all began in 1993 when Eric was teaching a Grade 5 class. His students were reluctant readers and writers and Eric began to write to encourage them to become more involved in literature. His first novel, *Stand Your Ground*, was created for this class. It is set in the school where Eric was teaching, Vista Heights Public School, and some of the features of the community of Streetsville and many of the names of his students were incorporated into the story. Since his first novel Eric has exploded on the children's and young adult scene. Over the following years he has published over 94 more novels and picture books with more than ten scheduled for the coming years.

## Discussion Questions

- Ask them to name different modes of transportation
- What modes of transportation have they used?
- Has anyone traveled to another city?
- If so, how did you get there? Tell them that vehicles are used for moving from one place to another.
- Explain that people use vehicles as transportation, or as ways to move around.
- Ask them to name different vehicles, such as cars, planes, and trains.
- Now, ask them where they see these vehicles. For example, cars move on the ground.

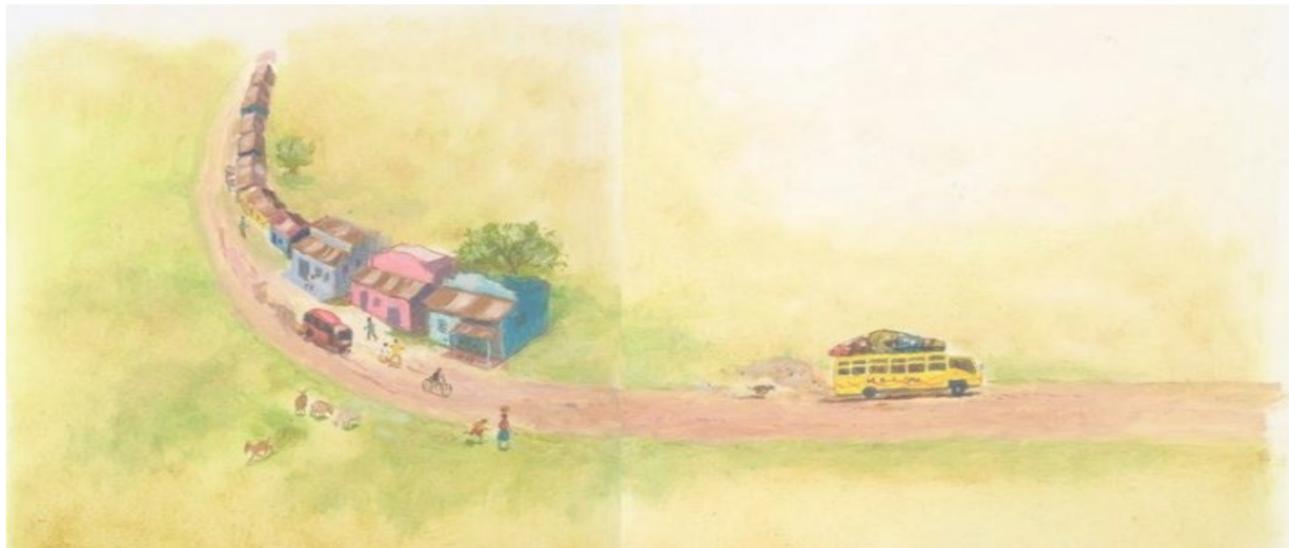
## Activity Suggestions/ Resources

Sing “Wheels on the Bus” with your students Lyrics here:  
<http://www.metrolyrics.com/wheels-on-the-bus-lyrics-barney.html>

Ask students to pick two destinations. One should be very far away, and one should be closer. Ask students to draw two pictures: One will depict travelling to their far off destination while the other will depict travelling to the nearer one. Their pictures should be realistic, but creative. The idea here is to make sure they understand the practicality of travelling. For example, they won't travel by car to Australia! Tell them that vehicles are used for moving from one place to another.

Explain that people use vehicles as transportation, or as ways to move around. Ask them to name different vehicles, such as cars, planes, and trains. Now, ask them where they see these vehicles. For example, cars move on the ground. Ask students their favorite memory with their grandparents, ask what they call their grandparents, teach them the Kiswahili words for grandpa and grandma

For an assignment, have the students interview their grandparents, both or just one. Interview questions could include: birth date? Where did they grow up as children/teenagers/adults? Did they have both parents raising them? How many siblings do they have? Did they have any pets? Who was their best friend as a child? Who was their favorite teacher? Favorite subject in school? What is their favorite food? What did they do for fun as a child? What scared them the most as a child? Most embarrassing moment as a child? Favorite music/band? What things do we do today that were not in existence when they were young? If they found a magic lamp with a Genie granting 3 wishes, what would they wish for?



## Country Fact Box: Kenya



### Capital:

Nairobi

### Population:

49 Million People

### People from Kenya are called:

Kenyans

### Main Languages Spoken in Kenya:

Kiswahili, English, Kikuyu, Luhya, Dholuo, Sheng

## Language Box: Kiswahili

### How many people speak Kiswahili as their mother tongue?

5 Million, with speakers in Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Congo, and many more!

### Practice some Kiswahili!

#### Common terms:

“Hello” – Hujambo

“Thank you” – Asante

“Yes” – Ndiyo

“No” – Hapana

“Sorry” – Pole

“Grandma” – Nyanya

“Dog” – Mbwa

“Mom” – Mama

“Dad” – Baba

“Brother” – Kaka

“Sister” – Dada

“Teacher” – Mwalimu

“Grandpa” – Babu

For more information on Kiswahili and what it sounds like, visit

<http://aboutworldlanguages.com/swahili>