

## Sample Detail List and Search Guide for McDonald's *My House Has Stars*

Students' first task is to list the kinds of details McDonald uses in each of the individual descriptions. This activity helps students begin to look at what writers choose to write about and what they leave out. An example lists might look like this:

- materials of the house—what it's made of
- a name for the house
- decorations—culture—words unique to that culture
- geographic location—map
- modes of transportation
- sounds
- plants and animals
- family—who lives in the house
- feelings
- folklore
- what people do in and around the house

From the list students generate, make a list of research questions to give students later as they research:

- Details about the **habitats** (houses): What do they look like? What are they made of?
- Details about the **people** (number and kind): Who lives in the houses? The neighbors' houses? What do they do for **play** and **work**?
- Details about the **geography** of the area: What does it look like? What is the weather like?
- Details about the culture/folklore/religion: What **stories** do the people here tell? What **objects** that reflect their cultural beliefs are evident in or around the house?
- Any other **interesting details** I find

This guide helps students organize their information as they research. Additionally, it can give them direction and purpose for their reading; if they are weak in one category, they know to look specifically for that kind of detail in their research.