Global Book Bag

Title: *The Great Kapok Tree*
Author: Lynne Cherry
Grade Level(s): 2-4
Global Competence: Assess options and consider the potential impact of planned actions

*The Great Kapok Tree* tells the story of the animals in a Brazilian rainforest as they try, one by one, to convince a laborer to spare their home while he sleeps under a Kapok tree. The goal of this book bag is to inspire students to identify and appreciate the value of the natural spaces in and around their own community. Students need to develop their understanding of the interconnectedness of all creatures that are a part that space.

Bag Contents:
*The Great Kapok Tree*
Composition book
Pencil and eraser
Crayons or colored pencils
A laminated map of your local community, state, country, or world
Vis-a-Vis marker

Directions:
1. Read *The Great Kapok Tree*.

2. As you read the book, write questions in the composition book about the story events, words you may not understand, and what the animals’ messages mean. Make sure you leave enough space between your questions so that you can answer them and see other students’ comments (someone else may want to add an answer to your question or comment on your thoughts).

3. Think about a place that you love around your home or neighborhood. What element of nature is at its center? Draw it on a page of the composition book. Add to your drawing all of the living creatures that call that place home.

4. Next, choose at least three of the creatures you drew and think about what they would say if they had to explain to you why it was important for you to protect their home. Write those statements on the next page.
5. Mark the location of your favorite place on the appropriate map using the Vis a vis pen.

**Extended Learning**

1. Use the Internet to learn more information about the creatures and natural elements that you identified in your drawing. What new things did you learn about those insects, birds, animals, or plants?

2. Draw a picture of a rich natural habitat. Show the interconnected plant and animal life for that habitat. Write a title, caption, or a poem to accompany your drawing.

3. In the story, the laborer learns that all living things depend on one another. How do you depend on trees and other living things in your daily life? Make a list of those things and then consider how to protect those things.

4. What do you know about the Amazon Rain Forest? Where is it located? How is this rain forest different or similar to other rain forests around the world? Does this rain forest need protection? Why? What can you do to help protect the rain forest and its many residents? Use the library or Internet to collect information and share what you have learned in a report to your classmates.

5. Discuss what it means to “assess options and consider the potential impact of planned actions.”