

# Beans and Lolo's Big Bike Ride

## Why in My Classroom?

In 1981, as a college student, I biked across the United States prior to becoming a teacher. I shared stories of this trip with countless students over the years from elementary to high school age. Many times I was encouraged to "write the book" but I had no time to do so until I retired in 2011. "*Tailwinds Across America*" was published in 2013.

In 2013 I began writing "*Beans and Lolo's Big Bike Ride*." Several elementary teachers who read the earliest drafts of my *Beans and Lolo* picture book encouraged me to make this book available to elementary schools for use in the classroom. They indicated that Geography has been pushed out of the curriculum at the K-4 level and there was a real need for it to be there at some introduction level for our youngest students. Over the next year I was shocked at how often this need was repeated by elementary teachers from many school districts small to large. Realizing the opportunity to provide a tool to address this need, I officially engaged the input of two different elementary educator focus groups in two different school districts to critique, edit and provide input as *Beans and Lolo* moved forward. In May, 2015, *Beans and Lolo's Big Bike Ride* was published.

### Beans and Lolo AS AN ANCHOR BOOK IN YOUR CLASSROOM:

*Beans and Lolo* will provide a powerful learning tool that will serve as an enjoyable adventure story for your students. While very suitable to specific instruction needs, *Beans and Lolo* is an ANCHOR book that reaches across multiple curricular areas through direct/supervised instruction and then throughout the year will serve as a strong lesson reinforcement as children independently revisit their journey with *Beans and Lolo*.

*Beans and Lolo* provides a user-friendly, ready to go tool that teachers and students alike will find applicable to direct instruction that will be educational as enjoyable. It partners together the educational needs for multiple curricular areas instead of making them competitive with each other for limited time in the day.

### SOCIAL STUDIES/GEOGRAPHY/SCIENCE:

In addition to being an exciting reading adventure with vivid, colorful illustrations and a rich rhythm text that captivates young and old alike, it also provides multiple layers of an educational experience from Social Studies/Geography to Science, Health and Fitness. As Beans and Lolo bike around the "Big USA" they experience five basic themes pertinent to the foundation of Geography education:

Location – Where is something?

Place – Qualities of a location

Human/Environment Interaction

Movement – The three primary components of origin, path, destination

Regions – A physical area united by specific physical, natural, human or cultural characteristics

### AS A READER:

*Beans and Lolo* was written in a manner and level to be utilized as a **grade level** reader so that in the process of reading there is also the incorporation of the themes of Geography. The purpose of this was to avoid the typical competition that led to the abandonment of Geography in the curriculum when there is "only so much time in the day and something had to give." *Beans and Lolo's* text is written at a level to be utilized as an independent reader book suitable to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. This leveling was overseen by a practicing elementary school principal and Director of Instruction, who worked in conjunction with the work done by the author and the teacher focus groups. In addition to its application as an independent reader at the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level, it is also well-suited to teacher supported reading at the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade level.

In promoting *Beans and Lolo* for use in the school setting, I am providing the following package:

- A teacher edition in hardcover 8 ½" x 11" in fully illustrated color
- Established Curriculum Standards Alignment for the grade levels K-3, compiled by a licensed Education Consultant
- A student edition in soft cover 7" x 9" that is otherwise identical to the teacher edition

As a former teacher and principal, I've enjoyed the challenge of bringing to fruition my dreams of creating an enjoyable story for young children that also can be a powerful tool in their education. You can retire the teacher, but that doesn't mean the teacher is tired of teaching. I have developed, written and published this book in a manner that meets not only the needs of this young age group of learners but also the needs of the teachers who guided me as *Beans and Lolo* came together. I would tell you the process has been challenging but rewarding and now I am working to bring *Beans and Lolo* to your students. Included here are excerpts and samples from the book, as well as the curriculum alignment and suggested lesson plans.

As a former Principal, I am very aware of the budget challenges facing our schools today. To help districts with this challenge, I have created *Beans and Lolo* entirely through my own process thereby eliminating many of the expenses added to materials when there are multiple levels of middle men in the marketing/distribution process. In addition to this, there are businesses willing to contribute in order to put *Beans and Lolo* into the hands of students. It is my hope that through these actions *Beans and Lolo* will not only be an exceptional educational experience for your students, but also an affordable and viable one for your district.

I hope that after reading this letter and viewing the included samples, you will make *Beans and Lolo* a part of your curriculum. I certainly am available at any time to answer any questions you may have. Please visit my website at [tailwindsacrossamerica.com](http://tailwindsacrossamerica.com) for more information or email me at [kindermanrj@yahoo.com](mailto:kindermanrj@yahoo.com).

At this time, to equip an entire classroom with the *Beans and Lolo* package of:

- 1 Teacher Edition
- 1 Set of Curriculum Standards Alignment K-3
- 1 Set of 20 Student Edition Copies of *Beans and Lolo*

The cost for the above is approximately \$195.00 including cost of shipping to your location.

I am not a large publishing house; I am not a book distribution business. I am a former, now retired teacher and principal who has never tired of trying to find ways of making education a fulfilling, enjoyable experience. I hope you will give myself and *Beans and Lolo's Big Bike Ride* a chance to ride into your classroom and the lives of your students.

Thank you for any consideration you give us.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Kinderman