

# Teacher's Guide

Based on the book, *LION LIGHTS*,  
by Shelly Pollock and Richard Turere

Illustrated by Sonia Possentini

Common Core Aligned Standards and  
Next Generation Science Standard Connections

*LION LIGHTS* TEACHER'S GUIDE by Grace Nall  
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Reading Age:  
6-8 years

Grade Level :  
2-5

Tilbury House  
Publishers

ISBN—  
13 978-  
0884488859

## Book Summary

LION LIGHTS is the amazing true story of Richard Turere, a young Maasai living in Kenya. As a small child, Richard invented a way to protect his father's cows from hungry lions. His bright idea, that no one had thought of, is being used around the world. This book will inspire children everywhere to do amazing things, too.

## Before Reading

CCSS ELA—Literacy.CCRA.R.1: Key Ideas and Details  
CCSS ELA—Literacy.CCRA.SL.1: Speaking and Listening

Find clues on the front cover as to what you think LION LIGHTS might be about:

### THE TITLE

- Why do you think this book is called LION LIGHTS?

### THE SUBTITLE

- What do you think this subtitle means?

### THE BOY

- How old do you think he is?
- What do you think he is wearing?
- Why do you think he has a stick with him?
- Why do you think he is smiling?

### THE LION

- Does the lion look content?
- Does the lion look upset?

### THE LIGHTS

- Why do you think they are there?

### THE PLACE

- Where do you think the story takes place?

Take all the clues you have looked at and  
try to predict what LION LIGHTS will be about.  
And, what do you want to find out?



# Tracking Back

CCSS ELA—Literacy.CCRA.R.3: Key Ideas and Details  
CCSS ELA—Literacy.CCRA.SL.1: Speaking and Listening

## LION LIGHTS TRACKING BACK

- A. What clues from the book cover led you to make a correct prediction about the story?
- B. What clues from the book cover did NOT lead you to make a correct prediction about the story?

1. What continent and country did Richard come from?
2. Why were the cows important to Richard's family?
3. Why were the wild animals able to get out of Nairobi's National Park?
4. What did Richard dream about when he was herding his father's cows?
5. What was Richard's job when he was six years old? Nine years old?
6. Why did Richard miss a lot of school?
7. What was Richard's problem when trying to protect his father's cows?
8. What were the three ploys Richard tried in order to protect his father's cows?
9. Why did each of these strategies not work?
10. What did the Maasai warriors do to retaliate back at the lions?
11. What attempts did other (conservationists/the government) use or do to find an answer?
12. Why didn't these attempts work?
13. How did Richard learn electronics?
14. What did it mean to Richard's family when their only bull was killed?
15. How did Richard discover what lions were afraid of?
16. What gadgets did Richard use for his invention?
17. How did LION LIGHTS end?





# Writing or Discussion

CCSS ELA—Literacy CCRA.W.3: Text Types and Purposes  
CCSS ELA—Literacy CCRA.SL.1: Speaking and Listening

1. Tell about a time you had to solve a big problem.  
What was it and how did you solve it?
2. Tell about a time you couldn't do something, but kept trying until you could do it.
3. Tell about a time when you saved an animal. How did you save it?
4. Tell about what you think your life would be like if you had a hard time going to school like Richard.
5. Tell about when you get older if you would like a job protecting animals.  
What job would this be?
6. Tell if you would like Richard's job. Why or why not?
7. Tell what you were feeling when you read Richard's story.
8. Tell about your favorite part of LION LIGHTS.
9. Tell if Richard's story inspires you to do something. What will it be?
10. Tell what you think the message is in this story.
11. Tell about an illustration you liked in this story. Why?
12. Tell about a time when you were so scared, but had to be brave.  
What did you learn about yourself?
13. Tell a fictional story like LION LIGHTS where a boy or girl has a big problem and must solve it. Remember your story parts.
14. Write a poem about lions.
15. Tell a story from a lion's point of view.

# Going on a Safari

CCSS ELA—Literacy.CCRA.R.1: Key Ideas and Details  
CCSS ELA—Literacy.CCRA.SL.1: Speaking and Listening

Directions: Put on your Safari hat and choose one or more of these safari journeys.

Write or share your work with your classmates.

1. Go on a safari to find out what happened to Richard right after he invented his Lion Lights. Scan the code or follow this link:

[www.shellypollock.com/safari1](http://www.shellypollock.com/safari1)



2. Go on a safari to find out where Richard's Lion Lights are being used around the world.

What animals are the lights protecting?

Scan the code or follow this link:

[www.shellypollock.com/safari2](http://www.shellypollock.com/safari2)



3. Go on a safari to explain how Richard's original lion lights worked by using his diagram. Scan the code or follow this link:

[www.shellypollock.com/safari3](http://www.shellypollock.com/safari3)



4. Go on a safari to explain how Richard's new improved lion lights worked. Scan the code or follow this link:

[www.shellypollock.com/safari4](http://www.shellypollock.com/safari4)



5. Go on a safari with Richard to find out more about him as an adult. Scan the code or follow this link:

[www.shellypollock.com/safari5](http://www.shellypollock.com/safari5)



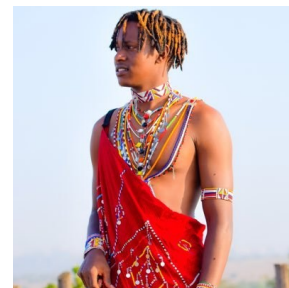
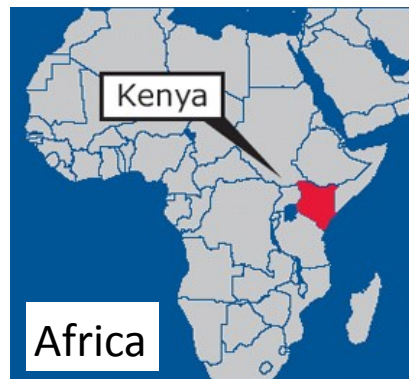
6. Go on a safari to find out how Richard's life is different from your life. Think about your neighborhood, clothing, what you eat, and what you do to help your family around the house, etc.

Hint: The glossary in the book or author's website will help you find the answers.

7. Go on a safari to find out interesting facts about lions. Why are lions good for Kenya? Why are the lions endangered there?

8. Go on a safari to find out more about Maasai jewelry. Scan the code or follow the link:

[www.shellypollock.com/art1](http://www.shellypollock.com/art1)



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# Got a Bright Idea!



CCSS ELA—Literacy.CCRA.R.7: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas  
CCSS ELA—Literacy.CCRA.SL.1: Speaking and Listening

1. Think of an animal, insect, or plant where you live that needs protection.  
What actions could you take to help protect it?  
What have others done to protect it?
2. Pick a problem you want or need to solve.  
What actions will you take to solve it?
3. With your classmates, find a problem in your neighborhood or community that needs solving. Brainstorm actions to solve it.  
Which of these actions will you take to solve it?
4. Find someone or a group in your community who has solved a problem.  
What actions did they take to solve it?
5. What amazing thing do you want to do NOW?
6. What amazing thing do you want to do when you get older?



**REMEMBER !!!**

**YOU CAN DO**

**AMAZING THINGS, TOO!**





# Arts and Crafts



Supports the National Core Arts Standards

## 1. **ART: Maasai Necklace**

The Maasai tribe live in Southern Kenya. A tradition that has been around for many years is for the Maasai women to create handmade beaded jewelry, such as a necklace.

A. To learn how to make a Maasai necklace using markers, scan the code or follow this link:  
<http://shellypollock.com/art4>



B. To learn how to make another Maasai necklace using paint, scan the code or follow this link:  
<http://shellypollock.com/art5>



## 2. **GAME: Shisima**

Shisima is a traditional 2-player game from Kenya.

It is similar to playing the Tic Tac Toe game or 3-In-A-Row.

To learn how to play the Shisima Game, scan the code or follow this link:  
<http://shellypollock.com/game3>



## 3. **GAME: Bao/Mancala**

To learn how to make the Bao/Mancala Game and play it, scan the code or follow this link:

[www.shellypollock.com/game1](http://www.shellypollock.com/game1)



## 4. **MUSIC: Sing a Swahili Greeting Song from Kenya**

To learn a Maasai song, scan the code or follow this link:

[www.shellypollock.com/music](http://www.shellypollock.com/music)



## 5. **DANCE: Maasai Jumping Dance**

To learn the Maasai Jumping Dance, scan the code or follow this link: <http://shellypollock.com/dance>



## 6. **ART: Favorite Page**

Pick your favorite page in LION LIGHTS and draw your own illustration. Why did you draw this one?

# Authors and Illustrators

## SHELLY POLLOCK, AUTHOR



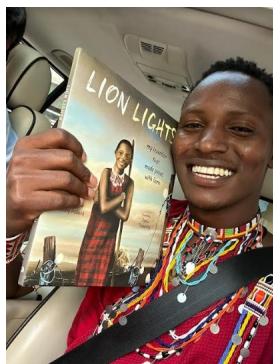
Shelly is a retired teacher with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Special Education. For over twenty-five years she taught children and adults helping them in remedial reading and remedial math.

Her debut picture book, *LION LIGHTS*, is co-authored with Richard Turere. It has won The California Reading Association Eureka Silver Award for Non-fiction and the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) Outstanding Science Trade Book Award. Shelly's hope is that *LION LIGHTS* will inspire children everywhere to realize that they can do amazing things, too.

After retiring, Shelly and her husband, Kim, sold their home and furnishing to explore North America in their RV and Jeep for fourteen years. As they explored the country and the world, she collected and wrote stories for children. Writing on a moving table was quite a challenge! They finally settled in St. George, Utah where when not writing, you'll likely find her enjoying yoga, hiking, backcountry off-roading, exploring rock art, and biking.

For more information, activities, and printables, visit Shelly:  
<https://shellypollock.com/>

## RICHARD TURERE, AUTHOR



Richard graduated from the African Leadership University where he majored in Global Challenges with a focus on wildlife conservation. He shared his *Lion Lights* with the world at the TED Global Stage in California. He received a special commendation from Africa Leadership Awards for his critical role in protecting and creating awareness around the crisis facing lions in Kenya. He is recognized as Kenya's youngest patent inventor, and, in 2018, received the Anzisha prize award. In 2020, he became a National Geographic Young Explorer, and he was a finalist in the Future for Nature awards in 2021.

Visit Richard: <https://www.lion-lights.org/>

## SONIA MARIA LUCE POSSENTINI



Sonia is an award-winning illustrator in Modena, Italy, and a professor of illustration at the International School of Comics in Reggio Emilia. She has illustrated thirteen children's books, including *Night Creatures* (2021) and *Hold on to Your Music* (2021).

Visit Sonia: <https://www.soniamarialucepossentini.com/>

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