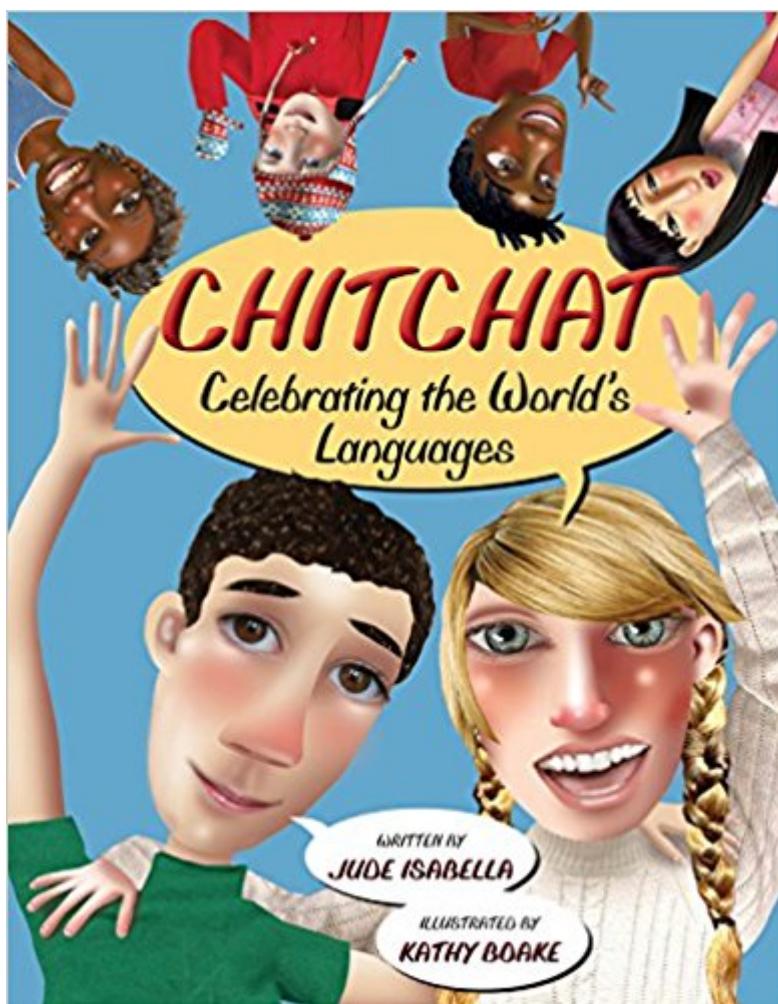


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# Chitchat: Celebrating The World's Languages



## Synopsis

Award-winning children's science writer Jude Isabella has compiled everything a young reader would ever want to know about language into one accessible, visually stunning book. In lively text, both spoken and written language are explored, including: a basic history of human's use of language; how individuals learn language as babies, and why; how writing systems and alphabets differ; the many sources and uses of slang through the years; how languages evolved in different parts of the world; and why some languages became extinct. Throughout the pages, more than fifty world languages are highlighted and children are offered opportunities to try out some phrases. Each separate topic is covered on a two-page spread, making the content manageable and approachable, and each spread is enhanced with bite-size sidebars that relate to or expand upon the information presented. The entire book is colorfully illustrated throughout by Kathy Boake's striking and unique artwork. A child with a strong interest in language could read this book straight through. Mostly, however, it will find use as a reference for any number of classes, from language arts to history to multicultural studies. With the strong focus on understanding and comparing cultures in today's social studies curricula, this book about languages throughout the world offers an interesting and unique way to do that. Simple activities suitable for individuals or groups appear throughout the book. This comprehensive volume is rounded out with essential reference tools, including a table of contents, a glossary and an index.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An encouraging primer that ought to spark interest for further study. ©Kirkus Reviews

casual tone and humorous examples make the impressively informative text approachable, as does the bright, appealing layout. —The Horn Book

Jude Isabella started writing kids books when she was managing editor of YES Mag: Canada's Science Magazine for Kids. Her inspiration mostly comes from paying attention to things that make her laugh and things that make her angry (she learned that from a famous journalist named Molly Ivins).

I read this book from cover to cover in one sitting. Well, actually, I got up about a dozen times to engage various family members with a "did you know...?" Yes, I am a language nerd. And now I know that the term "nerd" was coined by Dr. Seuss in 1950. This book is broken down into short sections, each with an abundance of interesting tidbits about our world's languages. Colorful illustrations will make this appealing to the young ones and the content will be appreciated by both children and adults (even those who don't believe they're interested in languages). Want to know where the word "yahoo" came from? what a crash blossom is? how to create your own language? It's all in here!

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