

Books to Treasure—Floyd Cooper

**Faraway Drums**  
By Virginia Kroll  
Illustrated by Floyd Cooper

Lesson plan by Linda Troutt

Summary: Jamila Jefferson, her little sister Zakiya, and their mom have just moved to a new neighborhood. When Jamila is left to care for her sister while their mom works, she quiets their fears of the neighborhood noises by recalling stories from Africa that her great-gramma told her. Jamila associates each loud city noise with something from Africa.

**Reading/Literature. Standard 7: Research and Information – The student will conduct research and organize information.**

Activities:

- 1) Using available resources, research the different African items mentioned in Faraway Drums and write down 3 facts about each one:
  - Wildebeests
  - Foods of Africa
  - Hyenas
  - Elephants
  - Red ants
  - Monkeys
  - Kente cloth
  - Zambezi River
  - Lions
  - Zebras
- 2) Make a class African mural with drawings or pictures of the items researched.

In 1911 in Delhi, King George V is on the brink of being crowned emperor of India. While on duty near Simla, a handsome British intelligence officer, Clive Farnol, finds a plot to assassinate His Majesty. Meanwhile, a young Bostonian reporter, Bridie O'Brady, is in town to write about the coronation. In this exotic tale of romance and intrigue, Clive and Bridie must together trek from Simla to Delhi amidst ambush attempts and a sly group of traveling companions—Indian, German, and English alike. In 1911 in Delhi, King George V is on the brink of being crowned Emperor of India. While on duty near Simla, a handsome British intelligence officer, Clive Farnol, finds a plot to assassinate His Majesty. Meanwhile, a young Bostonian reporter, Bri The Faraway Drums is a 1981 novel written by Australian author Jon Cleary about an American journalist and British intelligence officer who try to stop the assassination of King George V at the 1911 Delhi Durbar. Film rights were sold but abandoned after it was realised how much an adaptation would cost. The Faraway Drums at AustLit (subscription required). The Faraway Drums Jon Cleary. In India in the 1910s, the coronation of King George V as Emperor of India is to take place at the Great Durbar in Delhi. High in the Himalayas Major Clive Farnol, soldier turned political agent, hears rumours of a plot to assassinate the King. The year is 1911, the place India.