


Author Studies for Young Children



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Loving Literature

- favorite lifelong hobby is reading
- by reading I came to know good literature
- collecting favorite authors for personal reading
- rediscovering children's literature
- personal "old" favorites: Ferdinand, Ping, Bedtime for Frances, Five Chinese Brothers
- new personal favorites: Name of the Tree, Faithful Elephants, Love You Forever, Lilli and the Purple Plastic Purse,...



Good Literature

- appeals emotionally to children
- liberates the imagination
- enhances ability to relate with other human beings
- celebrates the rich variability and humanity in all persons
- helps us understand our common unity
- appropriate for their comprehension
- offers the opportunity to bond with story characters
- can touch the soul
- helps us understand social issues that are part of us all
- encourages the development of human values



Values of Author Studies

■ Understanding

Repeated story
reading in school
increase quantity and
complexity of
questions and
comments from low
SES children

■ Develops Literacy

book language
book structure
story organization
recognition of
cause/effect plots
action/reaction
predictions
setting familiarity
theme identification

Some of my Favorite Authors and Illustrators for Young Children

Aardema, Verna	Bogart, Jo Ellen	Carle, Eric	Daigneault, Sylvie	Eastman, P.D.
Aliki	Booth, David	Cauley, Lorinda B.	deBeer, Hans	Ehlert, Lois
Aruego, Jose	Bourgeois, Paulette	Clark, Brenda	Demi	
	Brett, Jan	Cole, Joanna	dePaola, Tomie	
	Bridwell, Norm		Dunn, Sonja	
	Broda, Ron		Dillon, D & L	
Fernandes, Eugenie	Galdone, Paul	Harrison, Ted	Jeffers, Susan	Kasza, Keiko
Fitch, Sheree	Gibbons, Gail	Hendry, Linda		Keats, Ezra Jack
Flack, Marjorie	Gilman, Phoebe	Henkes, Kevin		Kellogg, Steven
Fleming, Denise	Goble, Paul	Heller, Ruth		Kennaway, A & M
Fox, Mem	Graham, Georgia	Hoban, Russell		Kimmel, Eric
		Hughes, Monica		Kovalski, Maryann
		Hutchins, Hazel		Krykorka,
		Hutchins, Pat		Vladyanna
		Hyman, Trina S.		Kusugak, Michael
Leaf, Munro	Marshall, James	Peet, Bill	Reid, Barbara	Sendak, Maurice
Lee, Dennis	Martin, Bill Jr.	Pfister, Marcus	Rey, H.A.	Seuss, Dr.
Lionni, Leo	Mayer, Mercer	Polacco, Patricia	Rice, Elizabeth	Slavin, Bill
Lindgren, Astrid	Mollet, Tololwa	Poulin, Stephane		Staunton, Ted
Little, Jean	Most, Bernard			Stevenson, James
Lobel, Arnold	Muller, Robin			Stinson, Kathy
Lunn, Janet	Munsch, Robert			
Tafari, Nancy	Vaage, Carol	Waber, Bernard	Yorinks, Arthur	Zelinsky, Paul O.
Thornhill, Jan	Van Allsburg, Chris	Wallace, Ian	Young, Ed	Zimmerman, H.W.
Tibo, Gilles	van Kampen, Vlasta	Wildsmith, Brian		Zolotow, Charlotte



Resources for Author Studies

Author/Illustrator Books Book Club feature pages

Calendars for Photos

Publishers

Canadian Children's Book
Center

Internet

Videos

Libraries

Conferences

Young Alberta Book
Society

CANSCAIP

Book Stores



Author Centres:

Set-up and Materials

- Display table
- Books: library, personal, borrowed
- Props and toys related to book topics or characters
- Photo/drawings, bio, posters, awards of author/books
- Character description, book jackets
- Word posters, theme, story map
- Story ecology: beginning, middle, end, clone
- Yearly record of studies (authors, titles, projects)
- Visual Display of yearly work (Author Tree, World Map, Scrapbook))



Classroom Implementation

1. Commitment to provide high quality books appropriate for needs and interests of young children
2. Recognize/respond to the teachable moment
3. Acquire book collections
4. Share ideas with other teachers
5. Allowing time in day for read alouds and debriefs
6. Freedom for children to access the books on their own
7. Child choice for stories
8. Integrate literature across the curriculum



Story Components

- Characterization
 - Plot
- Setting
- Style
- Theme
- Format



Themes in Writing

- pain of being different
- penalties of disobedience
- sibling rivalry
- disorientation in new situation
- everybody needs a friend
- friendships require give and take
- good friendships require patience
- the greatest gift is freedom
- bravery and courage can solve problems
- people are unique



Author Study Clusters

- Theme Cluster: one topic
- Setting Cluster: compare similar places and times
- Genre Cluster: technique
- Mood Cluster: explore emotions - the spark
- Character Cluster: bully, wise old woman, helper, a bossy, victim, foolish, messy



Children Need:

- to feel safe and loved
- to know about life, work and the world
- to accept and give love
- to belong
- beauty
- order
- harmony
- to cope with stress
- to achieve and feel self-esteem



Problems for Children:

- fears: dark, falling, monsters, pain
- complexity in world: stress, accelerated change, choices
- abandonment, splintering families
- rapid-fire stimulation, no time to assimilate
- exposure to: violence, abuse, terrorism
- expectations for young to be independent
- increased mobility
- chaotic life styles



Learn about the World

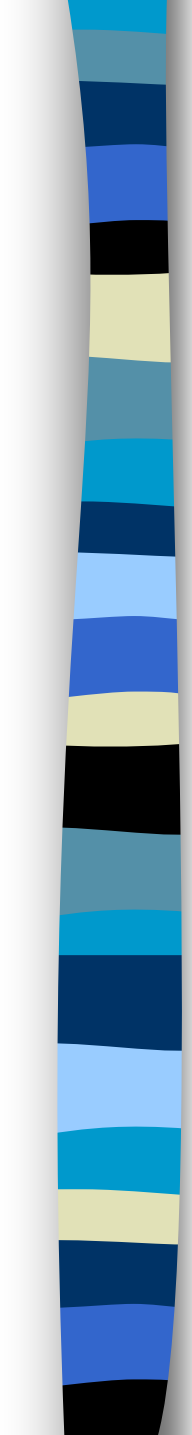
- cleverness
- sly
- underdog
- bravery
- courage
- death/loss
- anxiety
- perseverance
- success
- helping
- give and take
- selfishness
- foolishness
- wisdom



Surviving being Different

- wearing glasses/braces/appliances
- overweight/underweight/tall/short
- living in poverty/too rich
- family culture/family structure
- too talkative/too shy/too dramatic
- too smart/too challenged/too artistic
- athletic/clumsy/gymnast/wheelchair

Author Strategies

- 
- Animal characters instead of human
 - Character types: hero, helper, trickster, underdog, disobedient, silly, clever, sly
 - Characters influence plot: errors, adaptations, using wits
 - Story types: cumulative, why story, circular journey, repetitive sequence, concept books, problem centered, twists, main character
 - Story elements: illustration, contrasting images, conflict, cause and effect, actions



Extension Activities

- write to author
- interview character
- dramatize and improve dialogue
- read up to climax, write endings
- character as penpal
- story mural
- Wanted posters
- Was it real? Why?
- New version/problem
- social/science for topic or setting
- write own family into story situations
- write self into story
- border cues story
- create character masks- persona shift
- judge character



Story Record

Title: _____

Author: _____

Illustrator: _____

Characters: _____

Setting: _____

What was the story about:

My favorite words from the story:



Extension and Integration Throughout the Curriculum

Reading

Writing

Movement

Math

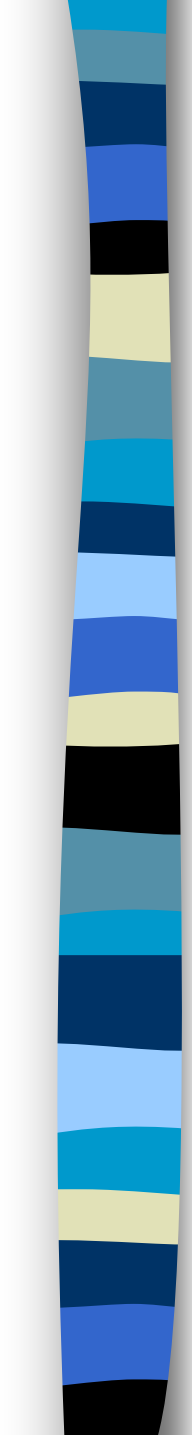
Social
Studies

Science

Art

Music

Drama



Reading: chants, choral, dramatic reading, songs, reading to internalize

Movement: parade, pantomime, games, creative movement

Drama: puppets, board games, character roles, reader's theatre, story theatre, dress-up, pantomime, interviews, playing out the story, character prop box, voice projection/changes for characters, dress-up day, guess-who-character, "who said this?" game, choral speaking, skit planning

Music: making up melodies, singing, operettas

Science: plants, animals, forests, habitats

Writing: bulletin boards, compare versions, retelling, journals, newspapers, character roles, letters to authors, characters, illustrators, create sequels, different endings, retellings, comparison charts, poetry, scripts, directions, letters from one character to another, book talks, interviews, book reviews, pocket chart activities, sentence strips, brainstorming, lists, labeling, jokes and riddles, questions and answers, word play, rhyming, webbing, mapping, letter writing, diary, theme notebooks, finding descriptive words for characters, surveys, create word search or crossword puzzle, new title, change something in story to make it different, add verses

Art: diorama, mural, illustrations from books or for books, story maps, mobiles, film strips, displays, stitchery, story quilt, sculpture, songs in picture book format, wordless picture books, hat creations, costumes, masks, design border for poem or card, create large creatures from paper or cardboard and paint, posters, designs, collage, modelling clay, drawing, painting

Math: estimating, measuring (time, recipes, length, capacity, weight), sequencing, patterns, graphs (monsters, giants, trolls, goblins), calendars

Social Studies: world map, cultures, communities