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COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY LEARNING ACTIVITIES



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ODE Library Guideline	Grade Band: K-2 Guideline: Information Literacy Organizer: Library Organization Benchmark D: Read and listen to stories for schoolwork and personal enjoyment.
Title	Author Studies
Resources and Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Internet web sites● Resources listed below● Your library collection● Physical materials based upon activities chosen
Activity	<p>Steps in an author study:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Choose an author<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Choose one from the list below of Authors Who Help Students Grow as Readers and Writers● Choose one in collaboration with classroom teachers and grade levels● Choose one that has engaged your students● Choose one from your library collection2) Gather your resources and books<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Search your library collection● Visit the websites listed below● Research your chosen author on Google and/or Pinterest to view booklists, biographical material and activities3) Read the author's books<ul style="list-style-type: none">● This can be a weeklong, monthlong or a one session activity.4) Activities<ul style="list-style-type: none">● See below for activities to enhance the author's books and other responses to the readings.

A Few K-2 Authors to Help Students Grow as Readers and Writers:

- Eric Carle: <http://www.eric-carle.com/home.html>
- Donald Crews: <https://donaldcrews.weebly.com/about-donald-crews.html>
- Gail Gibbons: <https://www.gailgibbons.com/>
- Kevin Henkes: <https://kevinhenkes.com/>
- Ezra Jack Keats: <https://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/>
- Kate McMullan: <https://www.katemcmullan.com/>
- David Shannon:
<https://holliegriffith.com/david-shannon-author-study-lessons-and/>
- Mo Willems: <http://pigeonpresents.com/>

Activities:

Once students have read and discussed an author's books, they can demonstrate what they've learned. There are many ways that students can respond to an author's work — here's a partial list of ideas:

Visual arts creations:

- posters
- murals
- dioramas of favorite moments in the story
- T-shirts painted with scenes from a book
- masks of characters

Verbal creations:

- poems
- Debates

Musical creations:

- songs
- dances

Dramatic creations:

- plays
- readers' theater

From Isabelcampoy.com., Isabel Campoy, author and acquisitions editor for Houghton Mifflin Publishing

More Author Study Culminating Activities:

- **Create a class book based on the students' responses to the author's work.** This activity is particularly well-suited for an author study the whole classroom is working on.
- **Create a display highlighting an author's life and work.** This can be an individual, group, or classroom project. Students can include photos of the author and his/her book covers, typed quotations from the work, copies of illustrations from the books, as well as other decorative touches that show an author's focus (for example, mice for Kevin Henkes, a stack of history books for Candace Fleming, or frogs and pigs for David Wiesner).
- **Create a magazine.** Create a magazine cover about the author, featuring his/her photograph and then headlines giving a taste of his/her books and biography. Or have students create an entire magazine with a series of articles about an author. This could work well with a group, as each student could contribute an article and collaborate on the cover. Create a video review of an author's work. Students can use a "flip camera" or other easy-to-use video camera to record each other's reviews of an author's work. Students write the reviews first, then have them edited by the teacher. When filming the videos, students should hold up a copy of the book they are reviewing.
- **Create a webquest.** The webquest can be archived and later be used by the teacher and school media specialist as a way for future students to learn about that author.
- **Develop a timeline about the author.** This can show biographical details as well as information about the books he/she has published. Adding photos and art to the timeline would strengthen its value and interest.
- **Dramatize a scene from one of the books.** This is a great project for small groups. In choosing which scene to dramatize, students can display their insight into an author's work. For picture books, consider having the students create a "Reader's Theater" piece from the entire book, transforming the story into a theater script. Invite other classes to see these dramatizations, and consider scheduling a night performance for parents to attend. Videotape the performances, if possible, to use for future classes.
- **Have students present their author studies to the class.** Have students create some visuals — a display board, PowerPoint presentation, or even a brief skit — as they show their classmates what they've learned about an author. Host a party based on an author's books. Invite students to dress up as characters from the books and serve food, if appropriate, that connects with the books. Obviously, this is most easily done if you've done a classroom author study. But it can be done with group or individual author studies by setting aside time for each student to

make a brief presentation about their character. (A variation on this theme, taken from *The Author Studies Handbook* (Kotch) is to have a “setting” party, in which students transform the classroom into a setting from one of an author’s books).

- **Make music.** Turn some of an author’s work into a musical and/or dance performance.
- **Create a literary social network.** Have students create Facebook profiles for various characters.
- **Play a trivia game.** This could be done “Jeopardy”-style, with someone giving the answer and student contestants vying to provide the correct question. Or create a “bingo game using an author’s characters, themes, plot, or setting.
- **Publish a newspaper about the author.** Try to have students write articles for all the different sections. For example, have them write a letter to the editor in the voice of a particular character. If there are any sports involved in an author’s books, have students create sports stories about the characters. Students can even do horoscopes for characters, ads for things that characters might use or need, promos for movie or TV versions of a book, and, of course, book reviews.
- **Read aloud favorite passages from an author’s books.** This is a great way for students to practice their reading fluency.
- **Schedule an “author fair”.** Use the display boards created by students, have them create and practice a brief speech about their author and then invite the rest of the school, parents, and others to come to the fair.
- **Write a fan letter to the author.** This project is perfect for individual, group, or classroom author studies. Have students mention specific characters and say why they are such favorites. Or have them talk about particular themes found commonly in an author’s work.
- **Create a comic.** Students can storyboard and illustrate a graphic novel sequel or prequel to one of the author’s books.
- **Write a letter to a character in one of the author’s books.** Students can create their own illustration of the character, then display the letter and the illustration on a poster board. Variation: students can write a letter to a character in the same style as the author

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