Inspire a Love of Reading:  
Author Studies for Preschoolers

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Information from Presentation

Audrey Wood
audreywood.com

King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub                      Ten Little Fish
Full Moon at the Napping House                   Silly Sally
Piggy Pie Po                                      Blue Sky

Other books by Audrey Wood:

The Deep Blue Sea: A Book of Colors
Introduces various colors by presenting a colorful scene on a rock in the deep blue sea.

It’s Duffy Time
Follows a dog as he naps his way through the day, squeezing in time for walks, food and play-time with his best friend.

The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and the Big Hungry Bear
Little Mouse worries that the big, hungry bear will take his freshly picked ripe, red strawberry for himself. Available in Spanish

Quick as a Cricket
A young boy describes himself as "loud as a lion," "quiet as a clam," "tough as a rhino" and "gentle as a lamb." Available in Spanish

Author facts for adults:
• Early years lived with the circus because her father was an artist who was repainting the circus murals. The circus people doted on her.
• Lived in Mexico – speaks Spanish.
• Learned to read at age three.
• Fourth generation artist and the only female artist in her family.

Author facts for children:
• She grew up with two sisters and they put on plays in their basement.
• She is married with one son. Both her husband and son have illustrated books that she wrote.
• She has a lot of animals including dogs, goats and chickens.
• She keeps a box with pieces of paper with words and ideas written on them which helps with ideas for books.

Information from audreywood.com
Other books by Jan Thomas:

The Doghouse
Cow, Pig, Duck and Mouse are afraid to retrieve their ball when it goes into the dog's house, but when they do go in they are pleasantly surprised.

Is That Wise, Pig?
Mouse and Cow are making soup, but Pig keeps trying to add strange ingredients.

What is Chasing Duck?
Duck's imagination gets the best of him when he asks his critter companions for help escaping a mysterious pursuer.

What Will Fat Cat Sit On?
A group of animals is terrified at the prospect of being sat upon by the imposing Fat Cat, until the mouse comes up with a solution that satisfies everyone.

Author facts for adults:
• Attended Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators meeting conference which led to an initial two book deal with a publisher.
• She made the pictures for “Can You Make a Scary Face?” large to be seen well from a distance. It was her first interactive style book.
• Her writing process starts with a “nugget of an idea” (her words) that comes to her during a walk, run or bike ride outdoors. Tries to let it tell her where it wants to go – many nuggets fail. Eventually she will sketch it up and uses family for feedback. When the family has had enough, she sends on to editor.
• Pippi Longstocking was her favorite book as a child.
• She once was a Biological Observer on a factory trawler in the Bering Sea.

Author facts for children:
• Loves to doodle. Scans her doodles into the computer and finishes the illustrations there.
• Married with two boys.
• Has pet dogs.
• Has an office in her home where she writes and illustrates her books. She usually has at least one of her pet dogs at her feet when working in her office.
• Her favorite word is turnip.

Information from blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=1715
**Websites**

**Rhyming Clip Cards Game**  
www.themeasuredmom.com/teach-rhyming-words-fun-printable

**Songs Used in Presentation**

**The Author and Illustrator Song**  
_Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”_  
Who’s the author? Who’s the author?  
What’s her name? What’s her name?  
She wrote all the words to  
Make this story for you.  
What’s her name? What’s her name?  

Who’s the illustrator? Who’s the illustrator?  
What’s his name? What’s his name?  
He drew pictures to view  
As the story’s read through.  
What’s his name? What’s his name?

**Time to Say Goodbye**  
_Tune: “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain”_  
It’s time to say goodbye to all my friends.  
It’s time to say goodbye,  
Give a smile and wink your eye.  
It’s time to say goodbye to all my friends.  
Yee-haw!  
Goodbye friends.

**Author Study Nuts and Bolts**

**What is an author study?**

A unit in which the curriculum is centered on works by the same author. Author studies expose children to a variety of literature and an array of artwork.

**Why do an author study?**

- Sparks interest in an author’s stories and motivates children to want to read.  
- Helps children learn interesting facts about an author.  
- Means variety for your lesson plans.

**How do I have an author study?**

1. Choose an author.  
   - Make sure it is one that you and the children enjoy.  
   - Ensure there are plenty of books by that author. You will need at least 10-20 books.

2. Search the library catalog to see available books and place these books on hold.
3. Research author, looking for facts and activities.
   - Author websites and teacher blogs are great resources.
   - Use curriculum books such as:
     1. Teaching With Favorite (Author’s Name) Books by various authors
     2. More Story Stretchers by Shirley Raines

4. Layout the author study.
   - Choose which books you are going to read aloud.
   - Prepare extension activities.
   - Prepare author poster and bar graph materials.
     2. Google Images is a good resource for book covers and author pictures.

5. Optional – Brainstorm other materials that you can incorporate into classroom centers:
   - Puzzles
   - Puppets
   - Felt board pieces
   - Manipulatives
   - Block props
   - Games

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**Library Resources**

You can find the following resources at research.fairfaxcounty.gov/early-literacy.

- **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten**
The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is designed to help caregivers prepare children for one of life’s big milestones: kindergarten. The goal is for children to read or be read 1,000 books before he or she enters kindergarten.

- **Book Lists for Preschoolers: I Like Picture Books About...**
Find library book suggestions on a variety of subjects for preschoolers.

- **Early Literacy Library Book Bags**
Book bag kits with 10-20 books on a variety of school-related themes. Book bags are not available in branches. Customers must put bags on hold.

- **Fun With Reading!**
A bi-monthly publication highlights library books and early literacy extension activities for each book.

- **Ready to Read Newsletter**
This bi-monthly newsletter shares early literacy information and related library resources. Available in Spanish

- **Thematic Resources**
Library books, songs, rhymes and websites on a variety of preschool-related themes.

- **Read, Write, Talk, Sing, Play Poster Series**
Early literacy posters that highlight a book and suggest activities to read, talk, sing, write and play with young children. Available in Spanish

- **What’s New in Children’s Picture Books?**
This publication shares new library books published in the last several years. Available in Spanish