“Who Wrote That?” Author Studies for Preschoolers

One way to entice children into reading more books is to have an author study. An author study is a unit where you read a collection of books by a single writer.

Author studies expose children to a variety of literature written by the same person. This variety helps you introduce many early literacy components that children need to get ready to read, such as vocabulary, phonological awareness, print awareness and print motivation. Author studies also show children that creating stories is interesting and may inspire them to write their own stories.

Spice up your author study by adding activities based on the books you read. Create an author poster with simple author facts, pictures and book covers. Ask children which story they liked best and graph their responses on a bar graph. Have children dictate their own stories and illustrate them for a classroom book.

With a carefully planned author study, you can have children requesting, “Read just one more book!”

- Article written by Jane Girondo, Early Literacy Assistant

The Library Can Help

Many writers are great to use for author studies. Here are a few authors and a selection of their books that your children may enjoy. Find these and many other stories at your neighborhood library branch.

Phyllis Root

Creak! Said the Bed
In the middle of a dark, stormy night, children wake their mother and ask to climb into the bed. When the last member of the family arrives, Papa says there is no room.

One Duck Stuck
Increasingly larger groups of animals try to help a duck that is stuck in the sleepy, slimy marsh.

Oliver Finds His Way
Oliver the bear becomes lost when he chases a leaf to the edge of the woods, but then he comes up with an idea to find his way back home.

Rattletrap Car
Various disasters threaten to stop Poppa and the children from getting to the lake in their rattletrap car, but they manage to come up with an ingenious solution to each problem.

(“The Library Can Help” continued on page 2)
Ready to Read

Volume 7, Issue 2

(“The Library Can Help” continued from page 1)

Kevin Henkes

Birds
Fascinated by the colors, shapes, sounds and movements of the many different birds she sees through her window, a little girl is happy to discover that she and they have something in common.

A Good Day
A bird, a fox, a dog and a squirrel overcome minor setbacks to have a very good day.

Jessica
Ruthie and her imaginary friend, Jessica, share many experiences. Ruthie’s parents hope that with the start of kindergarten Jessica will become a friend of the past.

Owen
Owen’s parents try to get him to give up his favorite blanket before he starts school, but when their efforts fail, they come up with a solution that makes everyone happy.

Lois Ehlert

Color Zoo
See the shapes and colors in a zoo.

In My World
Describes some of the many things in the natural world – worms, seashells, flowers and stars – that a child can appreciate.

Rrralph
The narrator describes how Ralph the dog can talk, saying words such as “roof,” “rough,” “bark” and “wolf.”

Top Cat
The top cat in a household is reluctant to accept the arrival of a new kitten, but he decides to share various survival secrets with it.

Wag a Tail
Assorted graduates of the Bow Wow School meet at a farmers market and a dog park, where most of them remember their obedience training.

Planning an Author Study

It is very simple to plan an author study for preschoolers. All you need is time to prepare, a library card, computer, printer and an author you think the children will enjoy.

Follow these simple steps:

1. Check the library catalog to ensure the author has at least 10-20 books. Place those books on hold.
2. Use teacher resource books or the internet to research the author, looking for simple facts about their lives and story extension activities.
3. Choose the books you are going to read aloud and the extension activities you want to use. Put together your materials for the author poster and bar graph.

Books by Mo Willems

Fairfax County Public Library
12000 Government Center Parkway
Suite 324, Fairfax, VA 22035
703-324-3100
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

To request this information in an alternate form contact the Early Literacy Outreach Office at 703-324-8413 or TTY 711.