

iCONN Learning Activity Author

Level: Elementary School

Task: Students will participate in an author study and examine an author's biography to determine the various influences on the author's work. Findings will be discussed in Literature Circles. Based on these discussions, students will reflect on the various influences on their own writing.

Research Question: How influential is the social, cultural and historical context to our writing?

Content Area(s): Language Arts and Learning Resources and Information Technology

Content Standards:

Language Arts:

4. Exploring and Responding to Texts
Examine the ways readers and writers are influenced by individual, social, cultural and historical context.

Learning Resources and Information Technology

2. Information Systems
Use simple menus to locate information from electronic media.
4. Information Processing
Develop the criteria to judge the relevance and completeness of information.
6. Evaluation
Apply process and content standard for searching, with assistance.

iCONN Database: Discovering Collection

Search Strategy

1. Click on *Discovering Collection*
2. Click on *Literature Search*
3. Type **author name** in the search box and then click on *Search*
4. Click highlighted author name to read a biography
5. At the top of the entry there may be a link *Search for any documents that may be available on this person*. Click here to view other types of information about the selected author (criticism/plot summaries, poem text, etc.)

OR

Search Strategy

1. Click on *Discovering Collection*
2. Click on *Search by Classroom Topic*
3. Select *Literature* and type **author name** in the search box and click on *Search*
4. Click on a hyperlink in citation list to read an article
5. At the top of the entry there may be a link *Search for any documents that may be available on this person*. Click here to view other types of information about the selected author (criticism/plot summaries, poem text, etc.)

Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:

iCONN Database: What Do I Read Next? (To locate other works like this.)

Search Strategy

1. Click on *What Do I Read Next?*
2. Click on *Author Search*
3. Type **author's last name, first name** in the search box and click on *Search*
4. Click on highlighted titles to read book descriptions. Links to books by other authors that are similar may be included in the description.

iCONN Database: Wilson Biography Plus (Good for established authors/illustrators)

Search Strategy

1. Click on *Wilson Biography Plus*
2. Click on *Search*
3. Type ***author name*** in the search box and click on *Search Now*
4. Click on highlighted citation to read article
5. At top of article click on *MORE INFORMATION*