

Author Study

Lesson Sequence 2

Purpose:

Critically evaluate an author's themes, characters and writing style.
Make connections between the reader's own response to the books and
relive and reflect on events in their own lives.

Lesson 1

Author Immersion (For example, Graeme Base)

Whole class:

Read What is an Author Study.ppt (in bundled file).

Independent:

Divide class into groups of four. Give one or two books to each group. Ask students to look at them, read them and discuss their impression of the author. Exchange books among groups and continue until each group has read and looked at two to three.

Whole Class:

Discuss and record students' impressions of the author on the board.
Questions to guide this discussion include:

- What do you think this author's interests are? What makes you think this?
- Where do you think he gets his ideas and inspiration? What makes you think this?
- Does his work remind you of anything else you have seen or read? What and how?
- Where do you think this author comes from? Why?

Lesson 2

Author Immersion (For example, Dr Seuss)

Divide class into groups of four. Give one or two books to each group.
Ask students to look at them, read them and discuss their impression of the author. Exchange books among groups and continue until each group has read and looked at two to three.

Whole class:

Discuss and record students' impressions of the author on the board.
Questions to guide this discussion include:

- What do you think this author's interests are? What makes you think this?
- Where do you think he gets his ideas and inspiration?
What makes you think this?
- Does his work remind you of anything else you have seen or read?
What and how?
- Where do you think this author comes from? Why?



Lesson 3

Whole Class Author Study (For example, Jeannie Baker)

Whole class:

This lesson works best if it can be conducted in the library.

Whole class: Introduce the Independent Author Study project (see bundled pdf).

Independent:

Decide on author. Best if they can choose an author they are already familiar with. Borrow books. Students need to read at least two books in order to do an author study. Picture story books might be easiest. Begin reading.

Reading will need to continue in other class time and at home if necessary.

Lesson 4

Independent Author Study Venn Diagram

Independent:

Students complete a Venn Diagram (see bundled pdf). Compare and contrast one of the following:

- Characters
- Setting
- Illustrations.

Begin research on the internet about their author in preparation for the next lesson.

Lesson 5

Independent Author Study Biography

Whole class:

Introduce Author Study Biography (see bundled pdf).

Independent:

Research their author and complete biography.

Lesson 6

Independent Author Study Illustration

Independent:

Illustrating response to the books. Do not simply copy. What did the text make you think, feel or remember? The drawing can be quite abstract.

Lesson 7 onwards

Students begin work on the author response component of the project

Teacher conferences with students.

Final lesson

Present author response projects

Teacher completes Author Study Teacher Assessment (in bundled pdf).

Students complete and attach Author Study Student Checklist (in bundled PDF) to the front of their projects and hand in.

