



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR PICTURE BOOK BIOGRAPHIES

Meet characters who faced life's challenges. Characters who can teach us about perseverance and ingenuity. Characters we can connect to. The engaging biographies you see here are 2024 and 2025 releases from Kid Lit for Growing Minds creators. Along with a variety of activities suitable for use with any bio, you'll find a complete list by our members. (And we've got more on the way!)



Explore. Connect. BE INSPIRED!

1. **BIO CUBE** from Read Write Think. Click [HERE](#). Print the planning sheet from the available link. Then use the interactive cube creator to make a bio cube featuring key ideas and details from one of the biographies you've read. You can make a cube about yourself, too.
2. **BIO POEM**. [HERE](#) is an easy method to write a bio poem from Read Write Think. Bio poems help kids delve into the emotional journey of a character. And [HERE](#) is a link to write a bio poem about yourself. [Decorate it for a special gift!]

3. **BIO WORLD.** Draw the "world" of the person you read about. You'll need 2 or 3 pieces of paper, glue, scissors, and coloring tools. Trace a plastic lid or round object 6 - 8" wide to create 4 circles. Cut them out. On 1 draw the setting showing the time and place the person lived. On circle 2, draw the person's conflict or challenge. On circle 3 show the character's strengths. And on circle 4 draw their accomplishment or why they matter to us today (resolution). Then fold the circles in half vertically and glue or tape them, the back of one half against another to create a 4-faced stand up "world." Trim the bottom flat so it can stand up, or hang it with a string through the top.
4. After reading a picture book biography, use a VENN DIAGRAM to compare and contrast yourself with the person you read about. You can draw 2 overlapping circles (overlap area is for similarities, outside areas of the circles are for differences), or use the interactive format [HERE](#) on Read Write Think.

Or compare characters from two different biographies.



You can also use a Venn to compare and contrast two historical figures from one book. Here are a few examples of recent picture books that feature two people from the past. Stories like these might be about friends, working partners, or people who didn't even know each other. You can add a third circle to show how you are the same and different, too!

5. **Cause and Effect Paper Chain.** Make a classic paper chain, but use it to link cause and effect from the story. Cut a sheet of paper into horizontal strips about 1" wide. On the first one, write the first problem (cause) you find in the story. Tape the ends to form a ring. Then use another strip and write the effect that event had. Loop it through your first ring and tape the ends. Then consider what that event caused to happen. Continue linking cause and effect from the story. End your chain with an effect that the person's actions had on you.

All of these activities incorporate learning standards. They don't require a classroom or special materials. By engaging with people from the past, we can all BE INSPIRED to meet our own challenges.

Biographies from Kid Lit for Growing Minds Authors

- 16 WORDS: William Carlos Williams and "The Red Wheelbarrow" by Lisa Rogers, illustrated by Chuck Groenink.
- AN INCONVENIENT ALPHABET: Ben Franklin and Noah Webster's Spelling Revolution by Beth Anderson, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley
- ANNETTE FEELS FREE: The True Story of Annette Kellerman, World-Class Swimmer, Fashion Pioneer, and Real-Life Mermaid, written and illustrated by Katie Mazeika
- BEAUTIFUL NOISE: The Music of John Cage by Lisa Rogers, illustrated by Il Sung Na
- BEULAH HAS A HUNCH! Inside the Colorful Mind of Master Inventor Beulah Louise Henry, written and illustrated by Katie Mazeika
- CLOAKED IN COURAGE: Uncovering Deborah Sampson, Patriot Soldier by Beth Anderson, illustrated by Anne Lambelet
- FRANZ'S PHANTASMAGORICAL MACHINE by Beth Anderson, illustrated by Caroline Hamel
- HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: The Race to Save Abraham Lincoln by Beth Anderson, illustrated by Sally Wern Comport
- JOAN MITCHELL PAINTS A SYMPHONY by Lisa Rogers, illustrated by Stacy Innerst
- LIZZIE DEMANDS A SEAT: Elizabeth Jennings Fights for Streetcar Rights by Beth Anderson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis
- MAGIC IN A DROP OF WATER: How Ruth Patrick Taught the World About Water Pollution by Julie Winterbottom, illustrated by Susan Reagan
- MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD: The Inspiring Friendship of Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe by Vivian Kirkfield, illustrated by Alleanna Harris
- ONE GIRL'S VOICE: How Lucy Stone Helped Change the Law of the Land by Vivian Kirkfield, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon
- OPENING THE ROAD: Victor Hugo Green and His Green Book by Keila V. Dawson, illustrated by Alleanna Harris
- PEDAL, BALANCE, STEER: Annie Londonderry, the First Woman to Cycle Around the World by Vivian Kirkfield, illustrated by Alison Jay
- QUEEN OF PHYSICS: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom by Teresa Robeson, illustrated by Rebecca Huang
- REVOLUTIONARY PRUDENCE WRIGHT: Leading the Minute Women in the Fight for Independence by Beth Anderson, illustrated by Susan Reagan
- "SMELLY" KELLY AND HIS SUPER SENSES: How James Kelly's Nose Saved the New York City Subway by Beth Anderson, illustrated by Jenn Harney
- SWEET DREAMS, SARAH: From Slavery to Inventor by Vivian Kirkfield, illustrated by Chris Ewald
- TAD LINCOLN'S RESTLESS WRIGGLE: Pandemonium and Patience in the President's House by Beth Anderson, illustrated by S.D. Schindler
- THOMAS JEFFERSON'S BATTLE FOR SCIENCE: Bias, Truth, and a Mighty Moose by Beth Anderson, illustrated by Jeremy Holmes
- WHO IS TIBET'S EXILED LEADER? THE 14TH DALAI LAMA by Teresa Robeson, illustrated by Angela Poon
- WHO SMASHED HOLLYWOOD BARRIERS WITH GUNG FU? BRUCE LEE by Teresa Robeson, illustrated by Ryan Inzana
- WOODY'S WORDS: Woodrow Wilson Rawls and Where the Red Fern Grows by Lisa Rogers, illustrated by Susan Reagan