

**Timestamp**

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**First and Last Name**

Cathy Doherty

**School**

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**Position & Title:**

Pre-K Teacher

**Project Title:**

What Does an Author do?

**This project is designed for:**

Elementary

**Target Grade Level(s)**

Pre-K

**Subject Areas or Discipline**

Language Arts

**Project Summary (500 characters or less)**

A local children's author will present a lesson on what an author does. She will share an author's tools, and demonstrate how to write a story.

**Project Description: Please describe your project in as much detail as possible. Be sure to include a brief description of plans and activities for your project.**

36 four-year old students will observe a concrete demonstration of how to write a book, given by a local author.

Ms. Kim Norman, author of “Puddle Pig,” “ I Know a Wee Pig” and several other fictitious books for young children, will visit our classroom. She will demonstrate the steps for writing a book, from forming the initial idea to putting the words on paper. She will share writers’ tools and introduce the children to new vocabulary.

Preschoolers do not understand what an author does. They can parrot the words “an author writes the book.” They have no idea what that really means. They need concrete examples and a visual demonstration. Our program is designed for low-income families that lack exposure to books in the home, vocabulary and concrete experiences. To meet a real author and read her books would be a unique, life-altering experience.

**Lesson Plan:**

We will begin the unit by reading some of Ms. Norman's books. With the author, the students will brainstorm and vote on an idea. The children will write using a variety of materials and technology to convey thoughts, ideas, and experiences.

As a class, we will write the story, using words offered by the students, and supplementary vocabulary directly from the demonstration. This will be a long-term unit. We will use the book we make together to identify initial consonants, letter sounds and sight words, as well as increase vocabulary from topic concepts. We will increase print awareness by having the students identify various text components, such as the front and back covers, title, and spaces between words in the title, and demonstrate directionality. Finally, each child will have a chance to dictate or write their own book and take it home. Each child will also receive a free copy or one of Ms. Norman's books to take home.

**Standards of Learning Objectives: What are the learning objectives with this project? How do they correlate with the Virginia Standards of Learning?**

FBL (Foundation Blocks of Early Learning) Language block:

- . 2c) Use expanding vocabulary with increasing frequency and sophistication to express and describe feelings, needs, and ideas.
- . 2d) Participate in a wide variety of active sensory experiences to build vocabulary.
- . 6a) Distinguish print from images or illustrations.
- . 6b) Demonstrate use of print to convey meaning.
- . 6h) Understands that writing proceeds from left to right and top to bottom.
- . 5a) identify the front and back covers of a book.
- . 5b) Identify the location of the title and title page of a book.
- . 5c) Identify where reading begins on a page (first word).
- . 5d) Follow text with a finger, pointing to each word as it is read from left to right and top to bottom with assistance.

**Evaluation: How will you know if the objectives have been met? How will the outcomes be measured?**

Each student will describe what an author does. Each student will be able to name an author's tool. They will dictate or write their own books and be able to say that they are the author.

**Dissemination: Would your project be of value to other educators? How would you share your ideas? (Sharing your project idea could include things such as school events, social media, school division meetings, conferences, etc...)**

Yes. The local author is very willing to come to schools and give presentations to all grades. I have observed one of her presentations to my class. She is willing to do assemblies, or individual classes. I am sharing my project with my team mate's class. I will photograph the student during the entire process and disseminate them to Hampton City Schools, following protocol.

**Budget:**

Costs:

- \$435.00 author's fee for 2 sessions
- \$29.99 story booklet for each child to make own book.
- \$28.44 crayons to take home to make own books
- \$ 6.57 pencils to take home to make own books

TOTAL COST: \$500.00

**Total amount requested (If your total project cost exceeds this grant request, please describe how the additional funds will be obtained. If unable to raise all funds and project is not completed, HEF grant funds awarded must be repaid).**

TOTAL COST: \$500.00

**Electronic Signature**

Cathy Doherty