

Author Study: JK Rowling

Introduction

Read Extra! Pages 8 and 9 and get students to gather some background knowledge about J.K. Rowling.

Setting the Scene

Get students to call out the books they associate with J.K Rowling. Write these on the board. Ask students if there are any themes that are consistent throughout her writing career. You may need to introduce her other novels if the children only come up with Harry Potter series. What about films? What role does Rowling have with the Harry Potter movie franchise and Fantastic Beasts franchise.

Activities

Create a multi-media presentation discussing the following points: - Research your author (Where was the author born? Does she have any brothers, sister, pets, or other important relatives? What hobbies or interests does your author have (besides writing books)? What other interesting facts have you learned about your author? What is your author's style of writing? What do they typically write about?)

Choose two or more books from J.K Rowling. Talk about 1 or 2 themes that author presented in his/her books (i.e. friendship, cross cultural relationships, etc). Remember, theme is a general lesson in a story that can be applied to multiple situations! How does the author's approach to theme differ in each of the books? How is it the same? Use a Venn Diagram to show this relationship. Does the author tend to have a common theme among his/her works? Tell us how you connected with the books, what you liked or did not like about them, something about the author you were surprised to learn, how you saw the author's life reflected in their books, etc.

Compare/contrast the characters, settings, and problem/solution in the books. How were they similar? How were they different? Would you recommend this author to others? Why or why not? Must give solid reasons for your decision.

Find information about the author's life using at least three sources. List sources used.

Create a dynamic PowerPoint or prezi presentation of your author study including all of the information above.

All Levels

- Students will research and explore the life and works of one author. Students focus their attention on the study of one author's works – not just one book, but a variety of works written by the same author – to discover what themes and/or other commonalities might run throughout the body of one person's writings

Learning Intentions

Students will:

- Make connections between their own understanding and author's work
- Create a prezi or slideshow to present findings of author's work
- Share their ideas and own understanding of the author's work

Success Criteria

Students can:

- identify and talk about different JK Rowling novels
- create a prezi presentation or slideshow
- write concisely and for an audience
- add their own 'voice' to their writing and presentations
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Resources

- www.odt.co.nz
- www.extraeducation.co.nz
- www.tki.org.nz
- www.pottermore.com
- www.jkrowling.com