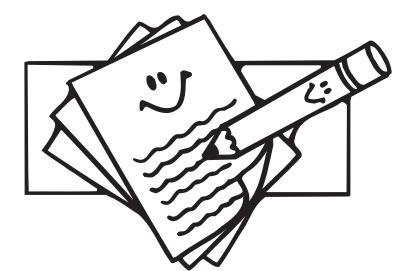
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November Ca	lendar



## **National** Author's Day

November 1



Author's



## Setting the Stage

• Set up a carpenter's area (with carpenter apron, tools and blueprints) and a bulletin board with the caption: "A Writer's Tools." Put tools on the board with labels such as: Main Idea, Personal Voice, Description and Details, Sensory Imagery, Vocabulary and Word Choice.





#### Historical Background

A famous American author, Stephen Crane, was born on this date in 1871. He wrote the book, The Red Badge of Courage.



#### **Literary Exploration**

Author's Day by Daniel Manus Pinkwater Books Are by People by Lee Bennett Hopkins Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary How a Book Is Made by Aliki A Writer Begins by Clyde Robert Bulla





## Language Experience

- Begin reading Dear Mr. Henshaw, by Beverly Cleary. Encourage students to finish the book to see what happens next.
- Discuss what makes a good book. What tools must an author have to be able to write books? How does an author get his or her ideas?
- Share biographical sketches of several different authors.









Author's



#### **Writing Experience**

 Discuss writing tools, author's style and patterns, importance of mechanics (capitalization, punctuation, indention and correct spelling). Post these questions on a bulletin board:

Does it make sense?

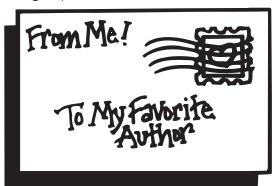
Does it have a beginning, middle and end?

Does it have a main idea?

Is there proper capitalization?

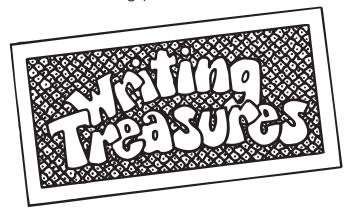
Are punctuation marks used in the right places?

- Write a letter to a favorite author.
  Send the letter to the author's publisher with a stamped, selfaddressed envelope.
- Let the students author their own "published" stories/books to put in a class library for others to read.



• Set up a "treasure chest" (shoe box) filled with story starters to turn your children on to writing books! See patterns on page 8 for decorating your treasure chest.









#### Story starter ideas:

Mv Best Friend The Time I Got Lost My Happiest Moment I opened the door and saw . . . More fun than bubble gum is . . . Snow is . . . What Is a Father? As happy as . . . As slippery as . . . My Life in a Doghouse My Trip to the Dentist The Night the Electricity Went Off If I Were a Football The New Theme Park Attraction The funniest time I ever had was . . . Secrets from a Secret Agent Our Favorite Family Story The Unexpected Guest Under My Bed My Favorite Teacher

My Favorite Trip My Favorite Birthday One time I got so mad . . . This animal . . . What Is a Mother? Love is . . . As beautiful as . . . Describe yourself If I Were a Bird One Windy Night My Summer Travels The World in 2050 The Substitute Teacher The First Day of School How to Build a Snowman The Most Unusual Recipe My Parents Were So Proud So far I'm learning about . . .







#### **Math Experience**

 Allow students time to survey other classmates about their favorite authors. (You might want to display several books.) Tally the results and show them on a class bar graph.





#### **Social Studies Experience**

 Have kids imagine the kind of book they might like to write someday. Have them write their biographies to go on the book jackets. Let them exchange papers and guess which book "bio" belongs to whom.

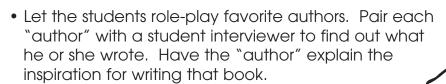


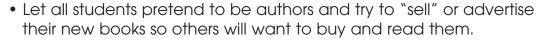


#### **Music/Dramatic Experience**

• Dress as a favorite author.

• Describe or illustrate the process an author has to go through to get a book ready for publication.









#### **Extension Activities**

- Invite a local author to visit your class.
- Visit a local bookbindery.
- ⚠ Make books children can really sink their teeth into. Give each one two graham crackers and frosting. Have them spread the frosting between the two crackers to make edible "books."
- Display a variety of books by different authors. Encourage students to read the biographies on the back covers and share their discoveries.
- Set up an "Author's Chair" where students can share stories they have written with an audience.



