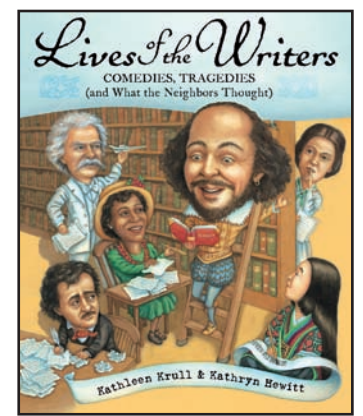
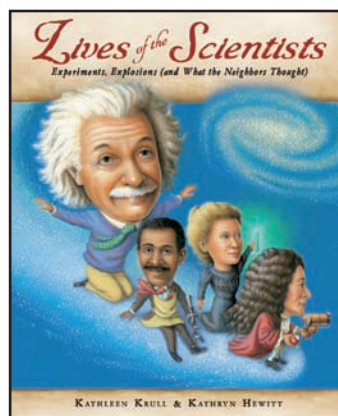
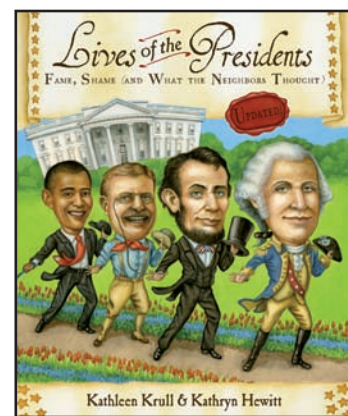
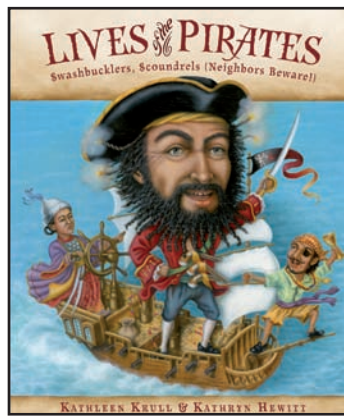
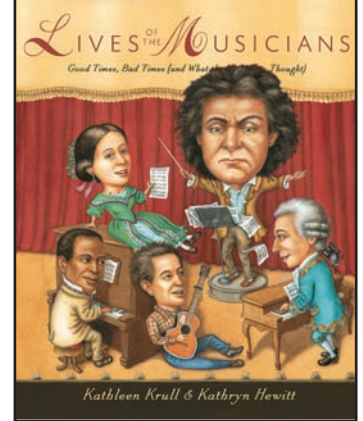
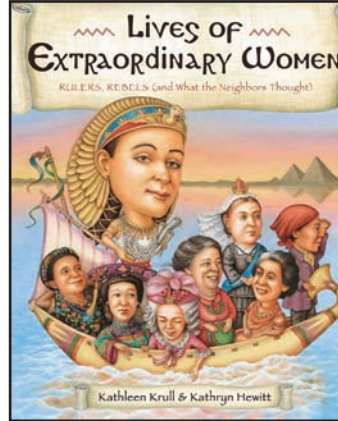
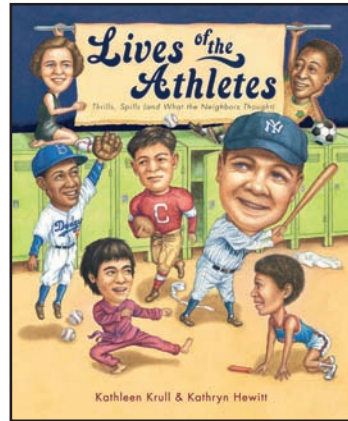
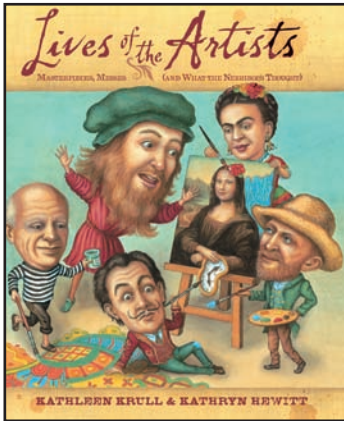


LIVES OF . . .

by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt



About the authors:

KATHLEEN KRULL has written much innovative nonfiction for young people, including all of the books in the Lives of . . . series, and has made a chatty, accessible approach to biography her hallmark. She lives in San Diego, California. www.kathleenkrull.com

KATHRYN HEWITT's caricatures of famous figures led kids to dub the Lives of . . . series the "Big Head" books. She has illustrated many books for young readers, some of which she also wrote. She lives in Santa Monica, California. www.kathrynhewitt.com

The questions and activities in this guide are aligned with Common Core Reading and Language Arts standards.



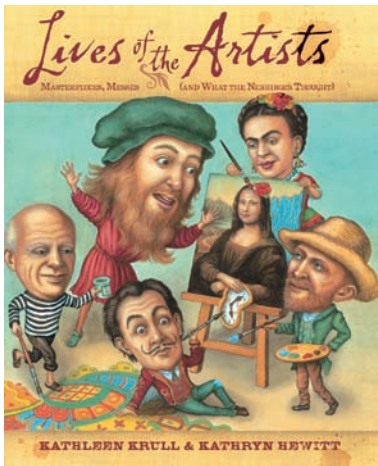
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LIVES OF THE ARTISTS

Masterpieces, Messes (and What the Neighbors Thought)

**Pre-Reading Activity**

Show students a list of the artists profiled in the book. Ask them which ones they have heard of and what they know about them.

Discussion Questions

What was unique about Leonardo's curiosity?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Leonardo inspire devotion in other people?

RI 1.4, [5]

What are things Leonardo did that were considered eccentric, taboo, or even criminal in his time?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did Michelangelo describe himself as "mad and wicked"? What are some examples of this behavior from his life?

RI 4.6, [7], 8

What was unusual about the way Michelangelo lived after he became wealthy?

RI 1.4, [5]

What kinds of paintings is Peter Bruegel best known for?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why was Bruegel given the nickname "Peter the Droll"?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why was being a woman a disadvantage in Sofonisba Anguissola's time?

RI 1.4, [5]

What was an innovation Anguissola used in her paintings?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Rembrandt become so successful?

RI 1.4, [5]

Given that he became so famous and successful at a young age, what is ironic about Rembrandt's death?

RI 1.4, [5]

What Japanese custom did Katsushika Hokusai carry to an extreme?

RI 1.4, [5]

What was Hokusai's alternative to cleaning his studio?

RI 1.4, [5]

What was her father's reaction to Mary Cassatt's intention to be an artist?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did Cassatt's lack of desire to be a wife or mother seem unusual?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did so many people assume Vincent Van Gogh was mad?

RI 1.4, [5]

What are possible causes of Van Gogh's mental breakdowns?

RI 1.4, [5]

What is ironic about Van Gogh's paintings selling for tens of millions dollars long after his death?

RI 4.6, [7], 8

DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY GUIDE

LIVES OF THE ARTISTS

Masterpieces, Messes (and What the Neighbors Thought)

Why was Kathë Kollwitz’s art banned by the Nazis?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did his critics call Henri Matisse “King of the Wild Beasts”?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why was it torturous to pose for Matisse?

RI 1.4, [5]

In what ways was Pablo Picasso a “master of publicity”?

RI 1.4, [5]

What are some examples of Picasso’s suspicious nature?

RI 4.6, [7], 8

What did Marc Chagall mean when he said, “My canvases vibrate with sobs”?

RI 4.6, [7], 8

What did Marcel Duchamp hope to find when he left France for the United States?

RI 1.4, [5]

How was Georgia O’Keeffe different from her husband, Alfred Stieglitz?

RI 4.6, [7], 8

What did William H. Johnson discover when he moved abroad?

RI 1.4, [5]

What did Salvador Dali mean when he wrote “Nothing is more important to Me than Me”?

RI 4.6, [7], 8

In what ways was Dali inept at ordinary life?

RI 4.6, [7], 8

Why did Isamu Noguchi always feel like an outsider?

RI 4.6, [7], 8

What were some of the many differences between Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo?

RI 4.6, [7], 8

How were Rivera and Kahlo able to stay together despite their differences?

RI 1.4, [5]

What did Andy Warhol do to help sell his art?

RI 1.4, [5]

What was unusual about Warhol’s diet?

RI 1.4, [5]

Post-Reading Activities

Invite your art teacher or a local artist to speak to your class about the schools of art the artists profiled represent and show examples of their works.

Write two or three paragraphs explaining which of Kathryn Hewitt’s portraits of an artist is most effective at conveying his/her personality.

RI 7.4, W 1.3, [4], 5

Have students work in pairs to research further the lives of one of the artists, and present their findings in a PowerPoint presentation incorporating samples of the artist’s work.

RI 9.4, [5]

Have students select a work of art they like by one of the artists profiled and write an essay of three or more paragraphs explaining what they find appealing about the work.

W4.4-5

Have each student research the life of an artist who was a contemporary of one of those profiled. Write and illustrate a profile of the artist in a style similar to that of Kathleen Krull and Kathryn Hewitt.

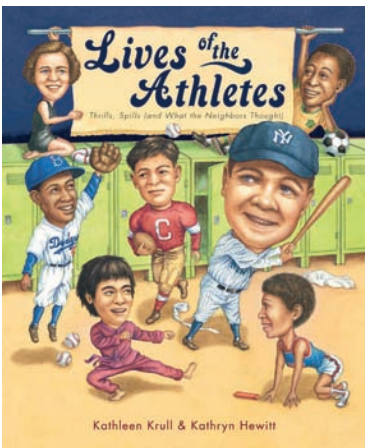
RI 8.4, [5], W 7.3, [4], 5

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LIVES OF THE ATHLETES

Thrills, Spills (and What the Neighbors Thought)

**Pre-Reading Activity**

Show students a list of the athletes profiled in the book. Ask them which ones they have heard of and what they know about them.

Discussion Questions

Jim Thorpe said of his tribal name, Bright Path, “I cannot decide whether I was well named or not.” What do you think?

RI 1.4 [5]

How did Duke Kahanamoku bring Hawaii into the world spotlight?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did some people think of Babe Ruth as “the most selfish and inconsiderate man ever to put on a baseball uniform”?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What are some examples of Ruth’s excessive and lavish lifestyle?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

How did Red Grange become the most publicized high school athlete in Illinois?

RI 1.4, [5]

In addition to his athletic prowess, what else was Grange famous for?

RI 1.4, [5]

What did Johnny Weissmuller do after winning five Olympic gold medals for swimming?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Gertrude Ederle become the most famous teenager in the world?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Babe Didrikson Zaharias permanently change “the relationship between women and sports in the United States”?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

How did Sonja Henie pursue her childhood dream of becoming a movie star?

RI 1.4, [5]

What was the special significance of Jesse Owens’s performance at the 1936 Berlin Olympics?

RI 1.4, [5]

In what ways was Owens “a man of many contradictions”?

RI 1.4, [5]

How was breaking down barriers the theme of Jackie Robinson’s life?

RI 1.4, [5]

How was Robinson able to endure the hostility he initially received when he joined the major leagues?

RI 1.4, [5]

Who was Sir Edmund Hillary’s companion who also climbed Mount Everest? Why do you think he did not become a celebrity like Hillary?

RI 1.4, [5]

What were Maurice Richard’s trademarks as a hockey player?

RI 1.4, [5]

What were Maureen Connolly’s “two personalities”?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

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LIVES OF THE ATHLETES

Thrills, Spills (and What the Neighbors Thought)

What did Roberto Clemente achieve at the age of thirty-eight?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What did Wilma Rudolph overcome in her childhood to make her success as an Olympic runner all the more remarkable?

RI 1.4, [5]

What did Arthur Ashe want to achieve beyond fame and wealth? How did he do this?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

How did Pete Maravich end up with the nickname “Pistol Pete”?

RI 1.4, [5]

What inspired Bruce Lee to take up martial arts?

RI 1.4, [5]

What attributes of Pelé were revealed in medical tests that may account for his prowess as a soccer player?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why was Flo Hyman ridiculed in school?

RI 1.4, [5]

Post-Reading Activities

Write two or three paragraphs explaining which of Kathryn Hewitt’s portraits of the athletes is most effective at conveying his/her personality.

RI 7.4, W 1.3, [4], 5

Write and illustrate a profile of a favorite athlete not included in this book in a style similar to that of Kathleen Krull and Kathryn Hewitt.

RI 8.4, [5], W 7.3, [4], 5

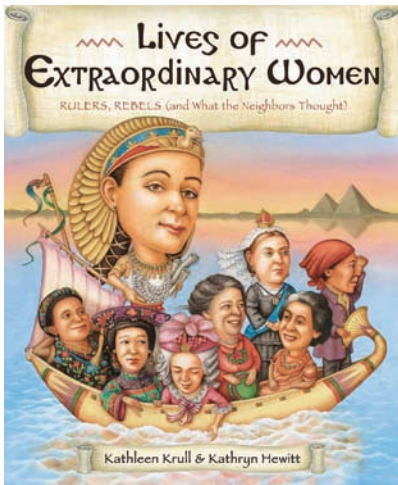
Have students work in pairs to research further the lives of one of the athletes, and present their findings in a PowerPoint presentation.

RI 9.4, [5]

Have each student create a trading card of one of the athletes profiled, with one side a picture of the athlete and the other side listing statistical career information for him/her.

LIVES OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

Rulers, Rebels (and What the Neighbors Thought)



Pre-Reading Activity

Show students a list of the women profiled in the book. Ask them which ones they have heard of and what they know about them.

Discussion Questions

What was unusual about Cleopatra's education?

RI 1.4, [5]

What are some examples of Cleopatra's flair for drama?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What are some things Eleanor of Aquitaine did that were out of character for a woman of her time?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why were the French willing to put Joan of Arc, a teenage girl, in charge of an army?

RI 1.4, [5]

In what ways can Joan of Arc be considered heroic?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What are some examples of how Isabella I was a "hands-on queen"?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What is considered to be Isabella's greatest historical achievement?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did Elizabeth's tutor think of her as a freak?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did Elizabeth refuse to marry during her reign?

RI 1.4, [5]

What is significant about Elizabeth's tolerance toward religious issues?

RI 1.4, [5]

What are some examples of Nzingha being both a ruthless and pragmatic ruler?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

How did Catherine the Great guide Russia into becoming a major world power?

RI 1.4, [5]

What did Marie Antoinette come to symbolize to the French people?

RI 1.4, [5]

To what extent did the British Empire grow during Queen Victoria's reign?

RI 1.4, [5]

What was Harriet Tubman's attitude toward the dangers of returning to slave territory to lead others to freedom?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why has Tz'u-hsi been portrayed by historians, until recently, as an evil tyrant?

RI 1.4, [5]

What unique qualifications did Gertrude Bell have to work as a British spy during World War I?

RI 1.4, [5]

LIVES OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

Rulers, Rebels (and What the Neighbors Thought)

How was Jeannette Rankin’s devotion to pacifism reflected in her congressional voting record?

RI 1.4, [5]

What are some examples of Eleanor Roosevelt’s dedication to human rights?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What led Golda Meir to dedicate her life to the creation of Israel?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Eva Perón become the most powerful woman in Latin America?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did Wilma Mankiller face so much opposition when she was elected principal chief?

RI 1.4, [5]

What prompted Aung San Suu Kyi to become a leader in Burmese politics?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Rigoberta Menchú become internationally famous at age twenty-three?

RI 1.4, [5]

What qualities do all the women profiled share that makes them extraordinary?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

Post-Reading Activities

Write two or three paragraphs explaining which of Kathryn Hewitt’s portraits of a woman is most effective at conveying her personality.

RI 7.4, W 1.3, [4], 5

Write and illustrate a profile of a woman you admire not included in this book in a style similar to that of Kathleen Krull and Kathryn Hewitt.

RI 8.4, [5], W 7.3, [4], 5

Have each student write a poem or song about one of the women profiled and present it to the class.

Have each student write an essay about the woman in his/her own life who has been the greatest influence. W 3.4[5]

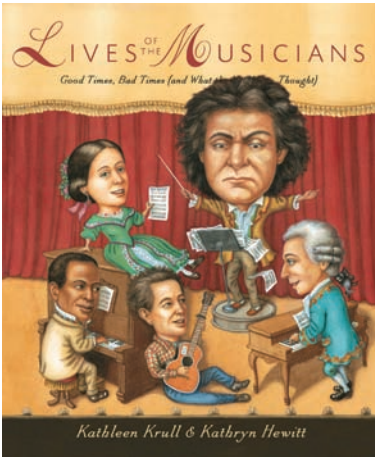
Have students work in pairs to research further the lives of one of these women, and present their findings in a PowerPoint presentation.

RI 9.4, [5]

DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY GUIDE

LIVES OF THE MUSICIANS

Good Times, Bad Times (and What the Neighbors Thought)



Pre-Reading Activity

Show students a list of the musicians profiled in the book. Ask them which ones they have heard of and what they know about them.

Discussion Questions

Why was Vivaldi nicknamed “Red Priest”?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why would Bach be surprised that he is now considered a musical genius?

RI 1.4, [5]

How would you describe Mozart’s childhood?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why was Mozart disliked by many people?

RI 1.4, [5]

What were some of Beethoven’s many eccentricities?

RI 1.4, [5]

What was the saddest thing about Beethoven’s life?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did people say that Chopin “looked like his music”?

RI 1.4, [5]

What were some of Chopin’s less admirable qualities?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why would Verdi not have liked his inclusion in this book?

RI 1.4, [5]

What was unusual about Clara Schumann’s childhood?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did Stephen Foster never earn much money from his compositions?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Brahms’s friendship with Clara Schumann help his music career?

RI 1.4, [5]

What Tchaikovsky composition is said to have gotten more people interested in classical music than any other work?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

How did Gilbert and Sullivan do most of their collaboration?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What kind of music did Erik Satie invent?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What work by Scott Joplin won the Pulitzer Prize?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

Why was little of Charles Ives’s music performed during his lifetime?

RI 7.3

Which of Stravinsky’s compositions caused a riot when it premiered?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

Why was Nadia Boulanger known as the “Tiny Tyrant”?

RI 1.4, [5]

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LIVES OF THE MUSICIANS

Good Times, Bad Times (and What the Neighbors Thought)

Why was Prokofiev unpopular with so many people?

RI 7.3

Which Gershwin composition is one of the most frequently played orchestral works by an American?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

Where did Woody Guthrie get ideas for his songs?

RI 1.4, [5]

What was Guthrie's favorite way of singing?

RI 1.4, [5]

Post-Reading Activities

Play samples of music by each of the musicians profiled.

Invite your music teacher or a local musician to speak to your class about some of the musicians profiled and their works.

Write two or three paragraphs explaining which of Kathryn Hewitt's portraits of the musicians is most effective at conveying his/her personality.

RI 7.4, W 1.3, [4], 5

Have students work in pairs to research further the lives of one of the musicians, and present their findings in a PowerPoint presentation incorporating samples of the musician's work.

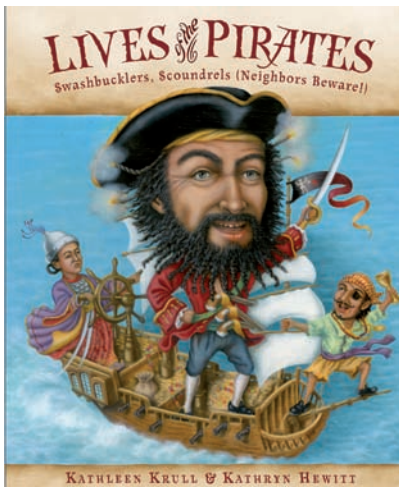
RI 9.4, [5]

Write and illustrate a profile of a musician you admire not included in this book in a style similar to that of Kathleen Krull and Kathryn Hewitt.

RI 8.4, [5], W 7.3, [4], 5

LIVES OF THE PIRATES

Swashbucklers, Scoundrels (Neighbors Beware!)

**Pre-Reading Activity**

Ask students to share what they know about pirates and piracy.

Discussion Questions

In her introduction to the book, what does the author say are the two greatest myths about piracy?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why might Saxo Grammaticus have made up the story about Alvilda?

RI 1.4, [5]

What famous author was a slave of the Barbarossa Brothers?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What role did Lady Mary Killigrew play in the husband-and-wife pirate team?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Grace O'Malley come to meet Queen Elizabeth I?

RI 1.4, [5]

In what ways was Sir Francis Drake more refined than the typical pirate?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

Why did Queen Elizabeth suppress Drake's journal from publication?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Sir Henry Morgan come to be known as "Terror of the Spanish Main"?

RI 1.4, [5]

What upset Morgan most about a book published about him?

RI 1.4, [5]

What myth about pirates originated from Captain Kidd?

RI 1.4, [5]

What famous adventure novel was inspired by the first volume of William Dampier's journals?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What are some examples of Blackbeard's dramatic flair?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

How was Black Bart different from other pirates of his day?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why is there speculation that Black Bart may have been a woman in disguise?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Mary Read and Anne Bonny each become involved with Calico Jack Rackham?

RI 1.4, [5]

In what ways was Stede Bonnet a notably inept pirate?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What is Black Sam Bellamy most famous for?

RI 1.4, [5]

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LIVES OF THE PIRATES

Swashbucklers, Scoundrels (Neighbors Beware!)

Why are the Angrias now regarded as heroes in India?

RI 1.4, [5]

What was Rachel Wall's warning to young women before she was hanged?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

How did Madame Cheng come to command the largest pirate gang in history?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Jean Laffite and his pirates earn a pardon from President James Madison?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why is Benito de Soto called "one of the last pirates"?

RI 1.4, [5]

What impact did Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* have on the image of pirates in the popular imagination?

RI 1.4, [5]

Have students create a detailed map showing where each of the profiled pirates operated.

Using electronic and print resources, have students work in pairs to research contemporary international maritime piracy and share their findings.

RI 9.4, [5]

Post-Reading Activities

Write two or three paragraphs explaining which of Kathryn Hewitt's portraits of the pirates is most effective at conveying his/her personality.

RI 7.4, W 1.3, [4], 5

Have students work in pairs to further research the lives of one of the pirates, and present their findings in a PowerPoint presentation.

RI 9.4, [5]

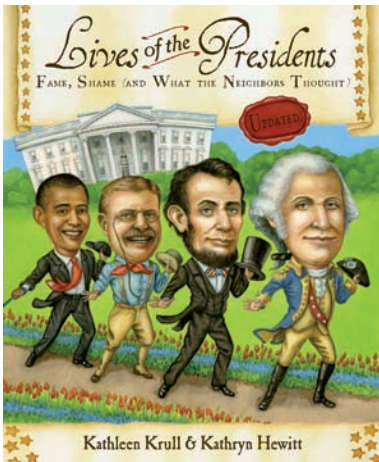
Have students create a Wanted poster for one of the pirates profiled and include the following: a drawing or picture of the pirate, his/her given name and aliases, specific crimes committed, and possible places he/she can be found.

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LIVES OF THE PRESIDENTS

Fame, Shame (and What the Neighbors Thought)



Pre-Reading Activity

Ask students to share what they believe are essential qualities a person must have to be president of the United States.

Discussion Questions

What surprises you most about George Washington?

What were some reasons for John Adams's unpopularity among so many people?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What was Jefferson's most significant achievement as president?

RI 1.4, [5]

What important thing did James Madison do when the Constitution was written?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

Why is Andrew Jackson known as "the people's president"?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

How was Abraham Lincoln always able to make himself the center of attention?

RI 1.4, [5]

What kind of relationship did Lincoln have with his wife?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did some neighbors call Lincoln "henpecked"?

RI 1.4, [5]

What talent did Andrew Johnson have that distinguishes him from all other presidents?

RI 1.4, [5]

What are some examples of Ulysses S. Grant being a man "full of contradictions"?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What misfortune do James Garfield and William McKinley share?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What were some of Theodore Roosevelt's "firsts" as president?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What job did William Taft want (and get) more than president?

RI 1.4, [5]

What is ironic about what Edith Wilson would end up doing for her husband, given Woodrow's attitude toward women?

RI 7.3

Why is Warren Harding usually regarded as the worst president?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Franklin Roosevelt end up in a wheelchair?

RI 1.4, [5]

What was Roosevelt's favorite hobby?

RI 1.4, [5]

LIVES OF THE PRESIDENTS

Fame, Shame (and What the Neighbors Thought)

What kind of relationship did Roosevelt have with his wife, Eleanor?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What was the most difficult decision Harry Truman had to make as president?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Truman get the nickname “Give ’Em Hell Harry”?

RI 1.4, [5]

What did Dwight Eisenhower do before becoming president?

RI 1.4, [5]

What were the reasons for John Kennedy’s chronic pain and frequent infections?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

Why did Kennedy bark like a seal?

RI 1.4, [5]

What are some examples of how Lyndon Johnson “lived large”?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

Why was Richard Nixon forced to resign from office?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Gerald Ford get a reputation for being a klutz?

RI 1.4, [5]

What role did Rosalynn Carter play in her husband’s presidency?

RI 7.3

What are some examples of Reagan’s renowned sense of humor?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

How was George H. W. Bush’s image as a wimp incongruous with accomplishments throughout his life?

RI 7.3

What are some examples of Bill Clinton being “a man of many appetites”?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What did George W. Bush and John Quincy Adams have in common?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

In what ways does Barack Obama have “the most unusual background of any president”?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

Post-Reading Activities

Write two or three paragraphs explaining which of Kathryn Hewitt’s portraits of a president is most effective at conveying his personality.

RI 7.4, W 1.3, [4], 5

Have students work in pairs to further research the lives of one of the presidents, and present their findings in a PowerPoint presentation.

RI 9.4, [5]

Have each student portray a president and deliver an oral presentation to the class in which they discuss their most significant accomplishments in office.

Have students work in pairs to research and create a historical timeline of all the important national and international events that occurred during a president’s term of office.

RI 7.5

Have your class look at U.S. currency and the presidents that grace it. Discuss who the presidents are, what they are known for, and why they are on our money. Tell your students that they need to make new money using the unused presidents of U.S. history. They can draw the front of the made-up bills and draw or cut out a photo of the selected president. Have them write a few facts on the back of the new bill about the president and why they selected him.

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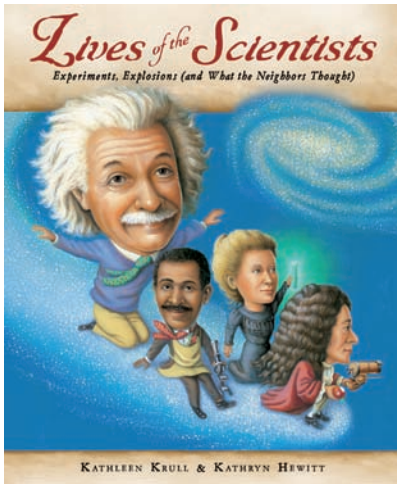
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LIVES OF THE PRESIDENTS

Fame, Shame (and What the Neighbors Thought)

Have each student write a formal letter to one of the presidents profiled that includes compliments on his election victory and work accomplished, disagreements with certain aspects of his policy, questions regarding fulfilled and unfulfilled campaign promises, a list of goals that the student would like to see acted upon, and personal questions.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY GUIDE
LIVES OF THE SCIENTISTS
Experiments, Explorers (and What the Neighbors Thought)



Pre-Reading Activity

Show students a list of the scientists profiled in the book. Ask them which ones they have heard of and what they know about them.

Discussion Questions

What did Zhang Heng invent to make predictions about earthquakes?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What influence did Ibn Sina's *Canon of Medicine* have on medical treatment?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Galileo's ego get him into trouble?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why is Galileo considered the "father of modern science"?

RI 1.4, [5]

What inspired Isaac Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

In what year did Newton predict the world will end?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What discovery made William Herschel famous?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

Why was Charles Darwin so reluctant to publish his ideas?

RI 1.4, [5]

What impact did the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* have on science?

RI 1.4, [5]

What did Louis Pasteur do to revolutionize medicine?

RI 1.4, [5]

What contribution to science did Ivan Pavlov make through his experiments on dogs?

RI 1.4, [5]

What barriers to a science career did George Washington Carver have to overcome?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What did Carver accomplish in his career at Tuskegee University?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Marie Curie's devotion to scientific discovery ultimately end her life?

RI 1.4, [5]

What did Albert Einstein accomplish at the age of twenty-six?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What became of Einstein's brain after he died?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What did Edwin Hubble discover about the Milky Way?

RI 1.4, [5]

What impact did Barbara McClintock's discovery of transposable genes have on science?

RI 1.4, [5]

What contribution did Grace Murray Hopper make to computer science?

RI 1.4, [5]

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DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY GUIDE

LIVES OF THE SCIENTISTS

Experiments, Explorers (and What the Neighbors Thought)

Why is Rachel Carson considered the “founder of environmental science”?

RI 1.4, [5]

What did Chien-Shiung Wu’s experiments result in?

RI 1.4, [5]

What did Watson and Crick discover?

RI 1.4, [5]

What did Jane Goodall’s research on chimpanzee behavior reveal about chimps and humans?

RI 1.4, [5]

Post-Reading Activities

Write two or three paragraphs explaining which of Kathryn Hewitt’s portraits of a scientist is most effective at conveying his/her personality.

RI 7.4, W 1.3, [4], 5

Have students work in pairs to research further the lives of one of the scientists, and present their findings in a PowerPoint presentation.

RI 9.4, [5]

Create a list of twenty questions you would ask one of the profiled scientists if you had the opportunity to speak to him/her.

Create a poster board that outlines the life and achievements of a scientist profiled in the book. The poster should be neat, colorful, and organized. Include the following art on the poster: a drawing or photograph of the scientist, a drawing or photograph of the scientist’s most famous achievement, and a map indicating the place of birth, death, locations of education, and locations of important achievements. Include the following information on the poster: the complete name of scientist, a timeline of dates, including birth, education, training, marriage, significant achievements, and death, at least three

interesting facts about your scientist, and a quote by the scientist or a quote about him/her. Have students include a bibliography of their information sources on the back of the poster.

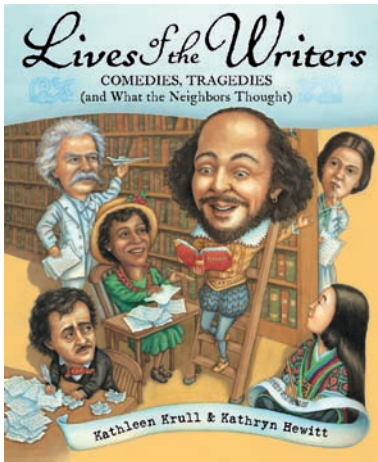
RI 7.6

Have students dress up as one of the scientists and speak to the class in character about his/her accomplishments.

Research, write, and illustrate a profile of a notable scientist not included in this book in a style similar to that of Kathleen Krull and Kathryn Hewitt.

RI 8.4, [5], W 7.3, [4], 5

DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY GUIDE
LIVES OF THE WRITERS
Comedies, Tragedies (and What the Neighbors Thought)



Pre-Reading Activity

Show students a list of the writers profiled in the book. Ask them which ones they have heard of and what they know about them.

Discussion Questions

Why did Murasaki Shikibu feel the need to conceal much of her learning?

RI 1.4, [5]

What is Cervantes best known for writing?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What are some mysteries that Shakespeare left behind?

RI 1.4, [5]

How do most serious actors regard Shakespeare's work?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why did Jane Austen never marry?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Austen make time for writing?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why was Hans Christian Andersen described as "childlike" by people who knew him?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

Why was Edgar Allan Poe thought by many to be "insane or committing slow suicide"?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What character did Poe create that would inspire Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes?

RI 1.4, [5]

What happened in Charles Dickens's childhood that would inspire his novels?

RI 1.4, [5]

Which novel did Dickens say contained the most elements from his own life?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What did the Brontë sisters create as children that foreshadowed their later interests in writing?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why is Emily Dickinson considered one of the most eccentric and mysterious of all writers?

RI 1.4, [5]

What prompted Louisa May Alcott to start selling stories?

RI 1.4, [5]

How did Samuel Langhorne Clemens get the name Mark Twain?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What did Frances Hodgson Burnett and Louisa May Alcott have in common?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

In what ways was Burnett a woman ahead of her time?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

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DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY GUIDE
LIVES OF THE WRITERS
Comedies, Tragedies (and What the Neighbors Thought)

What disease plagued Stevenson his whole life but did not kill him?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

In what ways did Jack London pack “many lifetimes into his forty years”?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

Which of all the awards he received was Carl Sandburg most proud?

RI 1.1, [2], 3

What was E. B. White’s favorite expression, and how did he make his life a reflection of it?

RI 1.4, [5]

To what sometimes dangerous lengths did Zora Neale Hurston go to gather material?

RI 1.4, [5]

Why was Langston Hughes known as “the perfect companion” throughout his life?

RI 1.6, [7], 8

What did Isaac Bashevis Singer try to recreate in his stories?

RI 1.4, [5]

Post-Reading Activities

Read aloud to your class selections by some of the writers profiled.

Visit your school library and ask the librarian to introduce your students to works by the writers profiled in the book.

Write two or three paragraphs explaining which of Kathryn Hewitt’s portraits of the writers is most effective at conveying his/her personality.

RI 7.4, W 1.3, [4], 5

Write and illustrate a profile of a favorite writer not included in this book in a style similar to that of Kathleen Krull and Kathryn Hewitt.

RI 8.4, [5], W 7.3, [4], 5

Have students work in pairs to research further the lives of one of the writers, and present their findings in a PowerPoint presentation.

RI 9.4, [5]

Guide written by Edward T. Sullivan, a librarian and writer who lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.