

## **iCONN Learning Activity Author**

**Level:** Elementary School

**Task:** Students will participate in an author study and examine an author's biography to determine the various influences on the author's work. Findings will be discussed in Literature Circles. Based on these discussions, students will reflect on the various influences on their own writing.

**Research Question:** How influential is the social, cultural and historical context to our writing?

**Content Area(s):** Language Arts and Learning Resources and Information Technology

### **Content Standards:**

#### **Language Arts:**

4. Exploring and Responding to Texts  
Examine the ways readers and writers are influenced by individual, social, cultural and historical context.

#### **Learning Resources and Information Technology**

2. Information Systems  
Use simple menus to locate information from electronic media.
4. Information Processing  
Develop the criteria to judge the relevance and completeness of information.
6. Evaluation  
Apply process and content standard for searching, with assistance.

**Background:** There are 2 methods for entering the iCONN resources.

- (1) Using the new all-in-one search interface (found at [www.iconn.org](http://www.iconn.org))
- (2) Going directly into specific databases

These directions begin at the all-in-one search interface, however, the learning activity requires that the user familiarize themselves with specific databases, by choosing "Select iCONN resources" from the main search screen and entering the databases identified in the directions.

**iCONN Database:** *Discovering Collection*

#### **Search Strategy A:**

1. Go to [www.iconn.org](http://www.iconn.org)
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on "Select iCONN resources"
3. Click on *Discovering Collection*
4. In the Search box, next to the "Enter search terms" instruction, enter the author's name (e.g., Wilder, Laura; Seuss, Dr.; Twain, Mark; or Rowling, J.K.), then click on Search or hit *Enter*
5. Look at the results list
6. Note the types of resource available on your author (to the right of the title, it will note the type of resource – e.g., biography, narrative biography, criticism/plot summaries, etc.)
7. Find and read a biography of the author
8. If other tabs are "highlighted" (instead of grey), click on these to see the results. Multimedia, for example, may offer pictures of the author

-- OR --

#### **Search Strategy B:**

1. Go to [www.iconn.org](http://www.iconn.org)
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on "Select iCONN resources"
3. Click on *Discovering Collection*
4. Click on the *Literature* button
5. Click on *Authors*
6. Select an author to view articles about that author

*Revised by iCONN staff August 8, 2008*