

Student-Authored ABC Books

People often remember a reflection of an activity more than the activity itself. How do people reflect upon their experiences? Generally it is through the arts -- writing, visual art, drama, or music.

The student-authored ABC Book is one way for teachers to assign a reflection activity. Each student writes one or two pages and these are all compiled into a booklet that stays with the classroom for students to read on their own. The assignment is given at the conclusion of a unit of study. Examples include:

The ABC Book of Geometry

The ABC Book of Romeo and Juliet

The ABC Book of Ancient (Greeks, Romans or Hebrews)

The ABC Book of Charlotte's Web

The ABC Book of Lewis and Clark

The ABC Book of Whales

You get the idea...

The only special suggestion I have is to remove the insistence that each word selected begin with the letter of the alphabet. Often Q, Z, X and J are tough, so the direction is that the letter must be in the word. An ABC Book of Math included "J is for Adjacent," and an ABC Book of Ancient Egypt included "X is for Sphinx."

The next page is a planning page for the teacher to keep track of which students have volunteered for each of the pages. Without some structure like this it is very difficult to keep track of all the pieces.

Happy reflecting,

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ABC Book Planning Guide

Responsibilities:

Foreword:

Dedication:

About the Authors:

About the Teacher:

Cover:

Letter Assignments:

A—

Topic: _____

Author: _____

B—

Topic: _____

Author: _____

C—

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Author: _____

D—

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Author: _____

E—

Topic: _____

Author: _____

F—

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