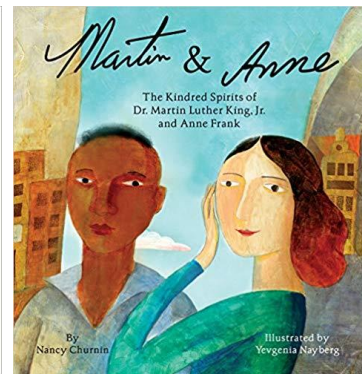
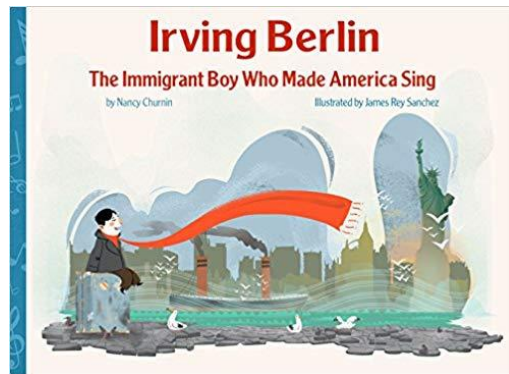
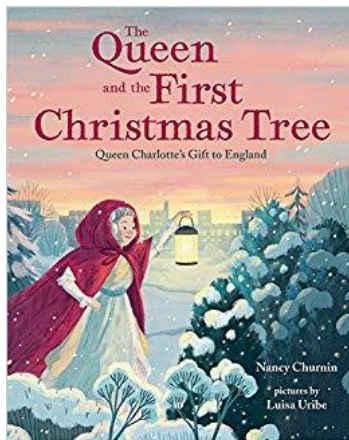
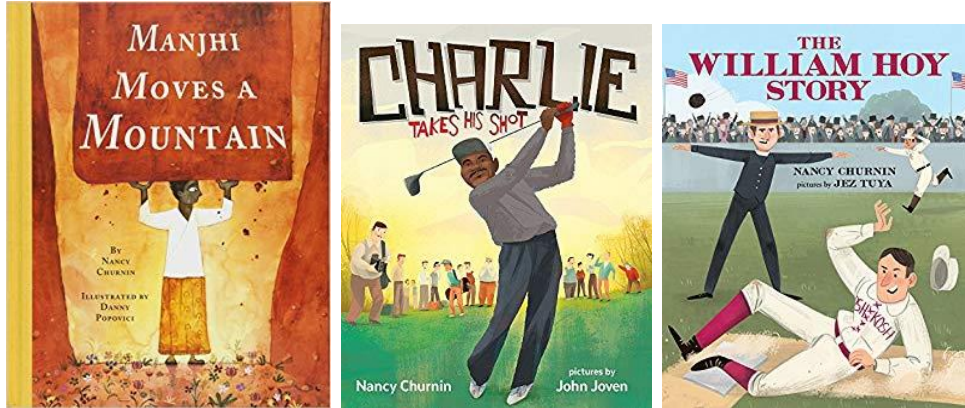


# Author Study Unit Five Lesson Plans featuring

Nancy Churnin





## Student Objectives

Students will

- Practice comprehension skills by reading texts, comparing texts, inferring information from the texts, and finding similarities.
- Demonstrate comprehension skills they have learned by studying an author's different works and analyzing the similarities and differences.
- Practice writing the specific genre of biography by researching and writing about an assigned classmate.

## Common Core Standards

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.9

Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series)

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2

Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7

Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting)

## Session One

### Materials:

Nancy Churnin Book Review Sheets

Two or three copies of each of Nancy Churnin's picture books. Talk to your librarian about acquiring copies for the class.

MANJA MOVES A MOUNTAIN  
CHARLIE TAKES HIS SHOT  
THE WILLIAM HOY STORY  
THE QUEEN AND THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE  
IRVING BERLIN THE IMMIGRANT BOY WHO MADE AMERICA SING  
MARTIN AND ANNE

### **Lesson**

Divide class into groups of approximately four students each and provide one or two Nancy Churnin books for each group. Ask students to look at the books, read them, and discuss their impressions of the author. Exchange books among groups and continue this process until each group has had an opportunity to review several of the selected titles. Have students record their impressions on their review sheets.

As a class discuss the students' impressions of the author and her books. Use smart board or flip chart to record their answers.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What do all of Nancy Churnin's books have in common?
2. Where do you think she gets her ideas and inspiration?
3. Why do you think she wants to write books??
4. Where do you think the author grew up?
5. What hobbies do you think she enjoys?

Save these answers for session two.

## **Session Two**

### **Materials**

Churnin books

MANJA MOVES A MOUNTAIN

CHARLIE TAKES HIS SHOT

THE WILLIAM HOY STORY

THE QUEEN AND THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE

IRVING BERLIN THE IMMIGRANT BOY WHO MADE AMERICA SING

MARTIN AND ANNE

Answers to discussion questions,

Nancy Churnin Interview

Interview worksheet

### **Lesson**

Review the titles of Nancy Churnin's books. Go over the discussion questions and answers the students gave from last session.

Ask students what kind of information can be discovered about an author just by reading their books. Is this information proven fact? Explain that this process is *called making inferences*.

Explain that authors write stories that interest them. These stories may or may not be related to the author's own life experiences. Some of the inferences may be accurate and others may be incorrect. How do you get accurate information? You get the facts from the author.

Divide the students in to groups of four or five. Have the students read the interview with Nancy Churnin and fill out the interview worksheet.

Gather the group together and discuss how accurate their inferences were about Nancy Churnin. What surprised them? How do Nancy's life experiences help her writing? Why does she like to write biographies?

Explain that next session each student will work with an assigned partner to write a biography about a classmate.

## **Session Three**

### **Materials:**

Nancy Churnin Books

MANJA MOVES A MOUNTAIN

CHARLIE TAKES HIS SHOT

THE WILLIAM HOY STORY

THE QUEEN AND THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE

IRVING BERLIN THE IMMIGRANT BOY WHO MADE AMERICA SING

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Interview Worksheet

Student Biography Worksheet

### **Lesson**

Ask students which is their favorite Churnin story and why. Discuss how biographies can help us learn about people and their lives. Tell the students they will have the opportunity to be like author Nancy Churnin and write a biography about one of their classmates.

Divide the class into pairs. Tell the students they will interview each other and write a biography about their partner.

Give students their interview sheets and have them conduct their interviews.

Once they have completed their interviews have them begin their draft of their biography using the Student Biography Worksheet.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to get to know each other and appreciate their classmates' talents, culture, and history. Encourage students in their positive attitudes.

## **Session 4 and 5**

### **Materials**

Nancy Churnin Books

MANJA MOVES A MOUNTAIN

CHARLIE TAKES HIS SHOT

THE WILLIAM HOY STORY

THE QUEEN AND THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE

IRVING BERLIN THE IMMIGRANT BOY WHO MADE AMERICA SING

MARTIN AND ANNE

Interview Worksheet

Student Biography Worksheet

### **Lesson**

Use the next two sessions for students to workshop their biographies.

Divide students into small groups of three or four and have them read their student biography to their group. Their critique group (or workshop group) will give students positive suggestions of how they can improve their story. Allow time for students to rewrite and consult with their partners and the teacher.

When students have completed their story, have them make a final copy and illustrate their story. Use the final session for students to present their work.

Allow time for each student to read their story to the class. Encourage questions and discussion.