

Teacher Connection

A resource flash from the Youth Services Department of the Lake Villa District Library



FEBRUARY 2014

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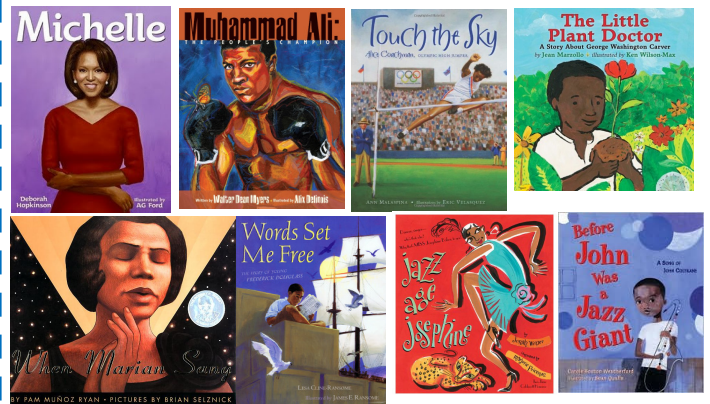
SPOTLIGHT RESOURCES: PICTURE BOOK BIOGRAPHIES

At the library, our substantial collection of picture book biographies are available for use in your classroom. While these biographies are not typically used for research report purposes, this format is flexible for use with students in all grade levels from Kindergarten through middle school. Here are some thoughts about how you can incorporate picture book biographies into your class:

- **Accessibility:** This format can help make challenging information more accessible to a wide range of students.
- **Grab their attention:** Spark interest in your students by introducing historical figures or eras through a read-aloud.
- **Cover more in less time:** By using picture book biographies you can introduce fascinating people quickly.
- **Open the gates:** Tap into the wide variety of picture book biography subjects—historical figures, athletes, entertainers, writers, and obscure names with inspiring stories.
- **Expand your lessons:** Use picture book biographies to extend or complement your curriculum in social studies, science, and more!

Check out the following suggestions and ideas for great picture book biographies to bring to your class.

Black History Month is here... what a great time for some picture book biographies! You could even get a classroom connection of them.



- **Words Set Me Free (Frederick Douglass)**
- **George Crum and the Saratoga Chip**
- **Before John was a Jazz Giant (Coltrane)**
- **Touch the Sky (Alice Coachman)**
- **The Little Plant Doctor (George W. Carver)**
- **Jazz Age Josephine (Josephine Baker)**
- **Dear Benjamin Banneker**
- **When Marian Sang (Marian Anderson)**
- **Muhammad Ali: the People's Champion**
- **Michelle (Michelle Obama)**
- **...we have plenty more!**



Keep an eye out for ballots to be delivered to you via email early in February. Make a copy of the tally sheet as well as copies of the ballots for your class. Return your completed tally sheet to Rachel Reinwald.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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Featured Database: Biography in Context

The enormous volume and uneven quality of information on the Internet can make finding exactly what you need a very frustrating experience. Add in that students trust almost anything online, and databases suddenly seem more appealing. Since students will do much of their research online as they get older, databases are a solid resource to teach because they provide information that has been reviewed and edited by experts, and comes from reliable, authoritative, up-to-date published sources. CCSS is urging us to teach students to be able to read a variety of nonfiction. This has magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, and other reference, media and books all in one place...sans inappropriate ads and misleading information.

Biography in Context is a database that the Lake Villa Library has purchased user rights to. If you have a student with a LVDL library card, you can use his card number to enter the database. I know a lot of you do biography projects in your grade, and sometimes you just want to highlight a person (Black History Month, author study, random question in class). Want to hear what Tesla sounds like? Click on the audio link on his page. The database also includes student resources for note-taking and research, as well as lesson plans and further resources for teachers. If you continue to use the same login, the database has a “cart” to hold onto articles you want to save for later.

1. Go to the Lake Villa Library’s [homepage](#).
2. Click on Access Databases and Learning tools, which can be found on the left-hand side column.
3. Click on Biography in Context picture link.
4. Enter LVDL library card number.



Nikola Tesla



Nikola Tesla

The Croatian-American inventor and electrical engineer Nikola Tesla (1856-1943) invented the induction motor and the transformer known as the Tesla coil and discovered the rotating magnetic field principle. Tesla also played a significant—if not pivotal—role in the development of radio transmission. Nikola Tesla was born in Smiljan, Croatia on July 9, 1856. He attended the Polytechnic School at Graz for four years and spent a year at the University of Prague (1879-1880). His first employment was in a government telegraph engineering office in Budapest, where he made his first invention, a telephone repeater, and conceived the idea of a rotating...[View More](#)

On This Page

- Featured Content
- Reference
- News
- Magazines
- Academic Journals
- Images
- Audio
- Related Topics

More great databases for students & teachers...

A to Z the USA has facts on all of the 50 states including primary documents to liven up the lesson and promote critical thinking. (States and colonies projects!)

American Indian History Online has biographies, pictures, traditional legends, maps, charts, primary sources and timelines about the native people of North America.

Ancient & Medieval History Online has information on ancient and medieval civilizations as well as their mythology and archaeology. (Mythology and Ancient Egypt units)

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