Write an “About the Author” Feature

1. Focus

Explain Writing an “About the Author” Feature

Say: When writers publish their works, they often include information about themselves to share with their readers. This is especially important when you write a report. Your audience wants to know that you know what you’re talking about. An “About the Author” feature provides your background and interests so that your readers can have more confidence in what you have to say.

Model Writing an “About the Author” Feature

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Use the think-aloud below to model how knowing about a writer can make a reader more likely to accept what the writer has to say.

Modeling Text

Thea Feldman writes fiction and nonfiction books for kids. She loves all animals, especially cats, and once worked at the Central Park Zoo. She lives in New York City.

Say: This information about the author tells me she lives in New York City. This is interesting and it helps me know the writer a little more as a person. But the information that I’m really interested in is that she once worked at the Central Park Zoo. This tells me that she has had firsthand experience with animals. Knowing that she writes nonfiction books tells me that she has experience with writing and most likely researching her topics. That she loves animals is important, too, because it means that she probably enjoys finding out about animals. She probably enjoys doing research for her books. I want to read a book about animals written by someone who knows something about animals.
2. Rehearse

**Practice Telling Information About an Author**

Invite students to work with a partner. Partners should tell each other about their informational report and what information they would include about themselves as author so that their audience would have confidence in them as the writer.

**Share and Discuss**

Bring students together and ask volunteers to report what their partner shared with them. Discuss the process of writing an “About the Author” feature for a nonfiction text.

- How does this feature help readers connect with the author?
- How does this feature make readers more likely to read or not read a book by a particular author?

### Strategies to Support ELs

**Beginning**

Ask students to draw a self-portrait. Ask them to tell you about themselves, using gestures and words. Ask simple questions to prompt discussion. **Ask:** What do you like? What can you do? What do you know? Students can use the sentence frames to respond:

- I like ______.
- I can ______.
- I know ______.

**Intermediate**

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers during the “Practice Telling Information About an Author” partner activity. Provide sentence frames to help students talk about themselves:

- I am interested in ______.
- I know a lot about ______.
- I have read about ______.
- I have studied ______.

**Advanced**

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers during the partner activity.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

**Say:** We learned that we can write information about ourselves as authors of informational text. This information helps readers connect to us and provides background information on what knowledge and experience we have.

Encourage students to write an author introduction for their informational report during independent writing time. During conferences, reinforce students’ use of this and other strategies using the prompts on your conferring flip chart.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to tell about themselves and the interest they have in the topic of their informational report.