

Unit Title: Author Study - Nicola Davies - “Exploring the Animal World”

Grade Level: 1st Grade

Subject Area: Language Arts/Science

Duration/Length/Number of class periods: 5 Class Periods

Description:

Nicola Davies is a life-long observer of animals. She has studied and written about animals all over the world, but is just as interested in the animals that live in her own backyard in Wales, U.K. Davies often combines elements of both fiction and non-fiction - weaving together the experiences of an individual animal, such as a mother sea turtle, with more general facts and information about that animal.

Established Goals (National, State, Local):

- ❖ Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- ❖ Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- ❖ Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information, drawing on a wide reading of a range of text types.
- ❖ ISTE Standards Addressed:
 - 3: Knowledge Constructor
 - 6: Creative Communicator

What Enduring Understandings are desired?

- ❖ Authors write with a purpose by using key details in informational texts and literature.
- ❖ Literature and informational texts have a central message (theme), main topic, and key details.
- ❖ Authors and illustrators have a craft and write for a purpose in mind.
- ❖ Comparing and contrasting texts allows us to gain a deeper understanding of authors' messages, ideas and themes.

What Essential Questions will be considered?

- ❖ How does Nicola Davies keep her readers interested in the books she writes?
- ❖ How does Nicola Davies organize her books?
- ❖ Why does Nicola Davies write these types of books?

- ❖ What did you notice about the books by Nicola Davies that were the same? Different?
- ❖ What do Nicola Davies books always include? Often include? Sometimes include?
- ❖ Which of the Nicola Davies books did you think was the most interesting? Why?

Students will know / be able to:

- ❖ I can ask and answer questions about key details in a text. This means that after reading I can ask and answer questions about the most important parts of the text.
- ❖ I can state the main topic and key details. This means that after I read a non-fiction text I can tell what the text is mainly about.
- ❖ I can analyze and compare two, or more, books written by Nicola Davies.
- ❖ I can list characteristics specific to how Nicola Davies writes her books.

Description	Formative	Summative	Introductory Activity	Learning Activity	Student Technology Used	Teacher Technology Used	ISTE Standards
Day 1 ❖ Display as many Nicola Davies books around the classroom as possible. Have students move from book to book exploring what they notice and wonder about the texts by Nicola Davies. ❖ Introduce Flipgrid if students are not familiar. Demonstrate how to create a Flipgrid video. ❖ Have students complete a Flipgrid video stating 1 notice and 1 wonder after exploring the texts. ❖ Once students have finished recording, have them browse books again until everyone is finished recording. ❖ Have students view peers' videos. ❖ Discuss common findings.			X		X	X	X
Day 2 ❖ Materials Needed: ➤ “Just Ducks!” by Nicola Davies ❖ Lesson ➤ Introduce the text: ■ Show the cover. Read the title. ● State, “Over the next several days, you will be hearing 5, maybe more, books written by Nicola Davies. This is	X			X			

the first one. It is illustrated by Salvatore Rubbino. What do you think this book will be about?" • "This book will tell you about ducks. What do you already know about ducks? What do you call books that provide you facts and information about a topic?" ➤ Read the text: ■ Stop a few times to invite thinking and for a brief conversation. Students turn and talk in pairs or threes. ➤ Discuss the text: ■ "What does Nicola Davies want you to learn from this book?" • After student responses read the author note and talk about how this information helps readers understand why Nicola Davies decided to write this book. ■ Display pages 26-27. • "What do you notice about the way that Nicola Davies wrote the words on this page?" ◆ Have a conversation about her style of wrapping words around the illustrations and adding words outside the body of text. ➤ Respond to Text: ■ "Like many authors, Nicola Davies has a special way of writing. Let's work together to write down some things you noticed about Nicola Davies' writing." • On chart paper, record a few of the student's noticings about the writing in "Just Ducks!". When the shared writing is complete, have the students reread the noticings with you.							
Day 3 ❖ Materials Needed: ➤ "One Tiny Turtle" by Nicola Davies ❖ Lesson ➤ Introduce the Text: ■ Show the cover. "Today you will hear another book by Nicola Davies called "One Tiny Turtle". Look at the front cover. What do you notice?" ■ "Let's read to find out more about these special animals. Look for things in this book that you noticed in the other Nicola Davies texts we have explored and read this week".	X			X			

➤ Read the text: ■ Stop a few times to invite thinking and for a brief conversation. Students turn and talk in pairs or threes. ➤ Discuss the Text: ■ Revisit the information about the turtles before the main text of the story, the captions, and the index at the end. Talk about the extra information that these sections provide, and how they show Nicola Davies' writing style and ways of putting together a book. ■ What is one fact that Nicola Davies taught you about loggerhead turtles from this book? Have students turn and talk to a partner then ask for volunteers to share out to the whole group. ■ Add additional "noticings" to the chart paper list from day 2.							
Day 4 ❖ Have children find out about another species of turtle or tortoise by using books from the school or classroom library, and the internet. Have them draw a picture of their favorite turtle or tortoise and write its name and 3 facts. ❖ Have students share their findings in a Flipgrid. ❖ Encourage them to view and respond to peers' FlipGrids.				X	X		X
Day 5 ❖ Read an additional Nicola Davies text. ❖ Add any student noticings to the chart paper list from day 2 and 3. ➤ Guide students to findings that Nicola Davies often and always has a certain purpose and craft to her writing. ❖ Have students complete a Flipgrid describing Nicola Davies' writing style/craft (ie. things she often/always/sometimes) includes in her texts. ➤ If time, have them complete a Flipgrid sharing their favorite Nicola Davies story.		X			X		X

Materials, tools and resources:

- ❖ Additional Optional Texts by Nicola Davies
 - "Just Ducks!" by Nicola Davies
 - "Bat Loves the Night" by Nicola Davies
 - "One Tiny Turtle" by Nicola Davies
 - "Big Blue Whale" by Nicola Davies
 - "Surprising Sharks" by Nicola Davies

- “Ice Bear” by Nicola Davies
- “Dolphin Baby” by Nicola Davies
- “White Owl, Barn Owl” by Nicola Davies
- “The Word Bird” by Nicola Davies
- “Animal Surprises” by Nicola Davies
- “Into the Blue” by Nicola Davies

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Additional credit given to: Fountas and Pinnell Literacy (™)