A Note to Teachers

There is no better way to connect students with history than by reading the life stories of intriguing people. A well-written biography has the same elements as any great story: characters that face challenges and difficulties, situations that excite and inspire, and narratives that urge the reader to keep turning the pages until the story’s conclusion. Students will delight in discovering how ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary things.

In the Classroom

Incorporate picture book biographies into the curriculum!

• Share with students that the word biography literally means “life writing” and comes from the roots bio and graphia. Have them try their hand at writing a picture book biography by choosing a person of interest to research and write about. Students can work independently to write and illustrate a biography, or work with a partner. Have plenty of picture book biographies in your classroom to use as models when the children begin their writing and illustrations.

• Create a separate space in your classroom library devoted to picture book biographies. Keep it stocked with a wide range of texts that will appeal to your class, and be sure to include books written at varying reading levels so that all students may enjoy this genre.

• Schedule time to read aloud a new picture book biography each week (even older students will look forward to this weekly foray into the past). Use this time as an opportunity to tie in to specific themes of study or to celebrate months that are devoted to specific groups, such as Black History Month or Women’s History Month.

www.randomhouse.com/teachers
Name: ________________________________________

Quotes that Inspire Me

Directions: Choose quotes from *A Boy Named FDR* that you think are important. Then record your responses to the quote on the other side of the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotes from the book</th>
<th>What it made you think, feel, or wonder</th>
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<td>Example quote: “But for the rest of his life, he could not stand without someone helping him.”</td>
<td>I think FDR must have been scared, frustrated, and angry. I wonder how he got the courage to go on to become president.</td>
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EDUCATORS: Reproduce this activity sheet to use with your students.  www.randomhouse.com/kids
How Much Like Mozart?

Directions: Learn about Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-George in *Before There Was Mozart* and Maria Anna Mozart in *For the Love of Music*. Choose one of these musicians and research the similarities and differences between him/her and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Fill in the Venn diagram below to organize your findings.

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

(fill in musician name)
A Whirling Sensation!

Directions: Bicycle companies fought to get Tillie Anderson as their poster girl. Pretend that you are the president of a bicycle company and you have landed Tillie as your poster girl. Use the space below to design an advertisement complete with headline, art, and your company’s name, slogan, and logo.
THE WATCHER Word Search

Directions: At five years old, Jane Goodall was already a watcher. Find and circle the words below based on the things that Jane observed.

WORD BANK:
CHIMPANZEE  GOMBE  OCEAN
CROAK  HOOT  STARS
EARTHWORM  INSECT  TANZANIA
FISH  NEST  WATERFALL

SOLUTION:
EDUCATORS: Reproduce this activity sheet to use with your students.