



## Using NoveList K-8 An Elementary School Lesson Plan

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### **Objectives:**

- To introduce students to an all-fiction database
- To provide instructional guidance that will enable students to become independent in their literature searches
- To use technology to help encourage reading at all ability levels
- To explore a resource that stresses the “pleasure” of reading

### **Resource:**

- NoveList K-8, an all-fiction, electronic database and reader’s advisory tool, designed specifically for the K-8 audience.

### **Skills Practiced:**

- Manipulation of an electronic resource
- Reviewing searches by author/title/subject
- Locating and viewing author websites
- Refining a search
- Evaluation and selection of titles
- Reading
- Listening
- Following Instructions
- Understanding a title “record”
- Using prior knowledge
- Applying information learned

**Introduction to the Source:** Demonstration of NoveList K-8 with LCD projector.

1. Homepage – click “Start”
2. Explain first 4 searching options.

### **Find a Favorite Author** (Illustrate with Roald Dahl)

Click on any title by Dahl and scroll to the bottom of the record. Click on the first web site (“Roald Dahl’s Web Site”) and play, as a class, some of the wordgames.

*[note: this site may take a minute to load but is well worth the wait!]*

### **Find a Favorite Title** (Illustrate with *The Reptile Room*)

At the title record, point out the following features:

- Title
- Author
- “Other titles”
- Summary of book
- Place of Publication
- Publisher
- Copyright/Date of publication

Ask students:

“What is a subject heading?”

“Why are these subject headings given?”

“If you have read this book, can you think of any other subject headings you could give for this book?”

Ask students:

“Why is the series name different from the title of the book?”

Which number in the series is *The Reptile Room*?

Ask students:

“What is a book review?”

“Why do you think NoveList included reviews of *The Reptile Room*?

(If time permits, read one review aloud and ask class if they agree with the reviewer’s opinions about the book.)

**Find a Series Name** (Illustrate with *All of a Kind Family*)

When results page appears with the list of all books in the series, ask the students:

“How can we tell which book came first in this series? Which book came 2<sup>nd</sup>? 3<sup>rd</sup>?” etc. [The answer is evident by noticing the different copyright dates for each title.]

**Describe a Plot, Topic or Unit** (Illustrate with “animals.” Be sure to select the “childrens” box)

- (1) When the list of books comes up, note that the books are about many different aspects of animals.  
Tell students you are going to “refine” this search by making it more specific. What you’re really interested in is “animals who talk.”
- (2) Return to Describe a Plot search page. Type in: animals who talk.  
When search results appear, click on a few books and notice the different kind of subject headings.  
Again, tell students you want to make the search even **more** “refined” because you are mostly interested in “talking dogs.”
- (3) Return to Describe a Plot search page and type in: talking dogs.  
Look at the first 5 or 6 records to determine if they are about talking dogs and if they look interesting to the students.

**Making a Personal List** Feature

Illustrate with your choice of 3-4 books or use the following titles:

*The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales*

*Pink and Say*

*The Bad Beginning*

*James and the Giant Peach*

Ask the students:

“Why would you want to make a list of books you want to read later?”

Procedure:

- (1) Using “Find a Favorite Title,” search for one of the above titles.
- (2) At the Results Page, click on the title.
- (3) When the Record appears, click on the little “folder” icon that appears to the right of the book title.
- (4) Follow these steps until you have added 3-4 books to the Personal Folder.
- (5) After you have added your last title, click on the folder at the top that now says “Personal Folder has (4) items.”
- (6) Click on “Print folder” which is in the blue, left-hand margin and show students how to print out list.
- (7) From print screen, click on “Go back to NoveList” and click on “Email folder.”

Explain to students that they can email a list to their home email address to use later (or take to a public library if books are not available in Media Center).

Explore Fiction Feature

On Search Page, select “Explore Fiction.” (Be sure to check the “childrens” box.) Point out all the different icons on the first page that appears.

- (1) Click on **mysteries**. Note the different *types* of mysteries. Click on any icon to display a list of titles. Click on any title to show students how they can access the information about a particular book.  
Return to “Explore Fiction” and click on **Places**.
- (2) Click on **Europe** to see different countries where books take place.  
[Note: An interesting selection is **Russia**, then click on the record for **My Grandmother’s Journey** by John Cech which describes how a child’s grandmother traveled from Russia to America.]

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES WITH NOVELIST

- (1) Write the name of an author you like.

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Go the Search Page and click on “Find a Favorite Author.”  
Type in your author’s name and search.

How many books by this author are in NoveList? \_\_\_\_\_

### Return to the NoveList Search Page

- (2) Click on “Explore Fiction,” then click on “childrens” and “search.”  
Browse through all the different icons.  
Give the name of 1 icon topic that sounds interesting to you.

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Give the title and author of one book on the book list for this topic.

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

### Return to the NoveList Search Page

- (3) Click on “Find a Favorite Title.”  
At the Search Page, type in *The Adventures of Captain Underpants*.  
When the record for this book appears, find the following information  
about the book:

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright date: \_\_\_\_\_

Scroll to the bottom of the record and click on “Dav Pilkey’s Web Site” (#2).

Browse around this website.