



2020

Before They Were Authors: Famous Writers as Kids

Maryn Wheeler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Wheeler, Maryn (2020) "Before They Were Authors: Famous Writers as Kids," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 41: Iss. 10, Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol41/iss10/5>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Book Review

Before They Were Authors: Famous Writers as Kids

Author

Elizabeth Haidle

Illustrator

Elizabeth Haidle

Reviewer

Maryn Wheeler

.....

Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary

.....

Pages

64

Year

2019

ISBN

9781328801531

Publisher

Houghton Mifflin
Harcourt

Discover how life creates a writer in this picture book biography of ten well-known authors. Beginning with a watercolor portrait, timeline, and a beloved passage from one of his or her books, the narratives highlight notable life and world events that inspired or influenced the author's writing journey. Also included are quotes and advice these authors offer to future writers.

American and English authors from Mark Twain to Gene Luen Yang are humanized in this inspiring book. Offering a nice range of diversity with an even split between men and women and with three authors from various racial backgrounds, these insightful biographies encourage curiosity not only into the lives of famous authors, but also into how a reader's own experiences could be the beginning of great stories. Written in comic book layout, this book reveals one common thread among the authors, which is their love of reading, and it shows how their life experiences helped make them great authors. The timelines are drawn in a crooked, broken line, indicating the meandering paths that lead these authors to success. Some persevered through disapproval or bullying, thus empowering their uniqueness. The subdued watercolor pictures are full of action and facial expressions and help place the authors in their times. The comic book layout flows through numerous illustrations and several facts in a succinct manner that will keep readers' attention.