

American Writers Museum
Field Trip My Personal Bookshelf
Teacher Materials

Description of Museum

Mission: The American Writers Museum will:

- Educate the public about American writers – past and present
- Engage visitors to the Museum in exploring the many exciting worlds created by the spoken and written word
- Enrich and deepen appreciation for good writing in all its forms
- Inspire visitors to discover, or rediscover, a love of reading and writing

Through innovative and dynamic state-of-the-art exhibitions, as well as compelling programming, the American Writers Museum will educate, enrich, provoke, and inspire the public.

Located at 180 N Michigan Ave, AWM is on Chicago's Cultural Mile, a short walk up the street from the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony and the Chicago Cultural Center. Its galleries offer visitors a sweeping history of United States literature from Native American storytelling traditions to today's innovative works through interactive, digital touch-screen exhibits, reading spaces and encounters with familiar and unfamiliar works.

Description of Field Trip

Thomas Jefferson once said, "I cannot live without books." With the goal of sharing and exploring a wide variety of authors and styles, the American Writer's Museum hopes to inspire children to begin to feel similarly to Thomas Jefferson.

As students explore the museum they will be asked to create a personal bookshelf. They will reflect on books they have read in the past, books that they could read over and over again, and books they find at the museum that they want to read in the future.

Students will create a "Personal Bookshelf" with the various types of books as listed above. They will share and discuss the importance of books on our lives as they share with one another their personal bookshelf.

American Voices is ideal for students in 3rd-4th grade. Many of the activities, both at the museum and the extension activities, can be adapted to varying classrooms within this age group.

Time Frame:

1 Hour and 30 Minutes Field Trip:

5 minutes- Welcome to the American Writers Museum

5 Minutes- Activating Prior Knowledge: Why are books important

25 Minutes- Guided Self-exploration of Museum and Exhibits

30 Minutes- Creating My Personal Bookshelf

25 Minutes- Guided Self-exploration of Museum and Exhibits

Standards: Common Core Standards (Grades 6th Grade ELA)

- RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g. a character's thoughts, words, or actions).
- RI.4.7 Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g. in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

Contact Information:

Some of the More Than 300 Authors Highlighted at AWM

Anne Bradstreet

Thomas Jefferson

Washington Irving

Emily Dickinson

Ida B. Wells

Laura Ingalls Wilder

William Carlos Williams

Herman Melville

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Ernest Hemingway

Ralph Ellison

Richard Wright

Flannery O'Connor

James Baldwin

Gwendolyn Brooks