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# Introduction

Our teaching is enriched daily by the wealth of outstanding authors who give us words and pictures to engage, motivate, and inspire our students. Through these authors, our students become acquainted with worlds and ideas beyond their own and emerge to be more aware, active, and enthusiastic readers.

In this book you will find:

- Sample lesson plans for the classroom teacher
- Biographical information for a closer look at the author's life, style, motivations, and place in literary history
- Ways to design a classroom to generate interest in the author
- In-depth, cross-curricular lessons on individual books, according to this format:
  - *Book Summaries*
  - *Before Reading the Book* ideas
  - *While Reading the Book* ideas
  - *After Reading the Book* ideas
- A culminating activity which will serve to showcase the students' involvement with the author
- Assessment tools, structured to stimulate critical thinking skills
- A bibliography and answer key

We are confident the author approach to studying literature will be a satisfying experience for you and your students!

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# Sample Lesson Plans

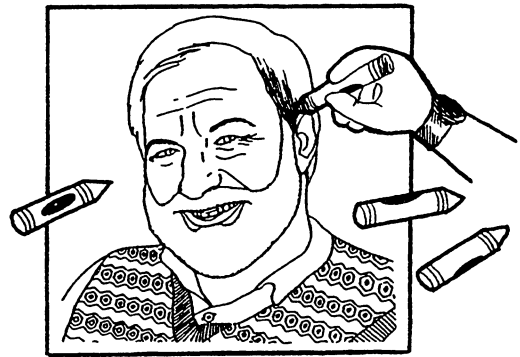
These lessons are just a suggested guide. You may find that some books and related activities can fill a week or two!

## Preparation

- Preview the books and activities suggested in this resource.
- Collect the Eric Carle books you want to use. (pages 2 and 65)
- Create a classroom environment to stimulate an interest in Eric Carle. (page 9)

## Lesson 1

- Present biographical information on Eric Carle. (page 7)
- Distribute Eric Carle's picture for a class art project. (page 6) You may suggest a number of ways students can use his picture. Here are just a few:
  - ☆ Color with crayons, chalk or marker.
  - ☆ Paint with available painting materials.
  - ☆ Make a mosaic with tiny pieces of construction paper.
  - ☆ Trace on tracing paper and overlay on an excerpt from one of his books.
  - ☆ Use as the background for tissue paper collage.
- Discuss and demonstrate the art technique that has brought Eric Carle much fame. (page 8)
- Give the students an opportunity to try one of his art techniques.



## Lesson 2 to Lesson 14, an overview

- Present the "Before Reading the Book" activities you find most appropriate for your students and curriculum.
- Be sure to practise reading the book aloud before you present it to your students.
- During your class reading, monitor your students' ability to listen actively. Watch for physical clues, as well as questions, answers, and comments that are generated by active student involvement.
- Present appropriate "While Reading the Book" activities.
- Extend the book by encouraging "After Reading the Book" activities that are of interest to your students.

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# Sample Lesson Plans

## Lesson 15

- Prepare students for the Culminating Activity on pages 52 to 58.
- Share ideas for murals. (pages 52 and 53)
- Review Eric Carle books you have studied.
- Prepare mural background. (page 54)
- Choose designs. Many are provided in this resource book.
- Evaluate mural with personalized figures. (page 57)
- Create Eric Carle books using graduated paper sizes. (page 58)

## Lesson 16

- Choose the assessments that are appropriate for your students' interest and ability level.
- When conducting the application assessment suggested on page 61, you may find that it can be extended into a week's lesson. Students usually take great interest and pride in developing their own lessons for the study of a book.
- If this is successful, encourage them to develop lessons for other Eric Carle books working in small groups. The entire class then enjoy many more books by the author, and the students have personalized their learning!

## Lesson 17

- Visit the library. Encourage students to read more books written and/or illustrated by Eric Carle. (page 65)

# Tissue Paper Collage

Eric Carle revolutionized illustration in children's books with his bold art techniques and paper engineering. One of the methods bringing him fame is the use of tissue paper collage. This technique, often used by Eric Carle to illustrate his books for children, is an exciting and easy method for children to use to incorporate vivid blendings of color into their artwork.

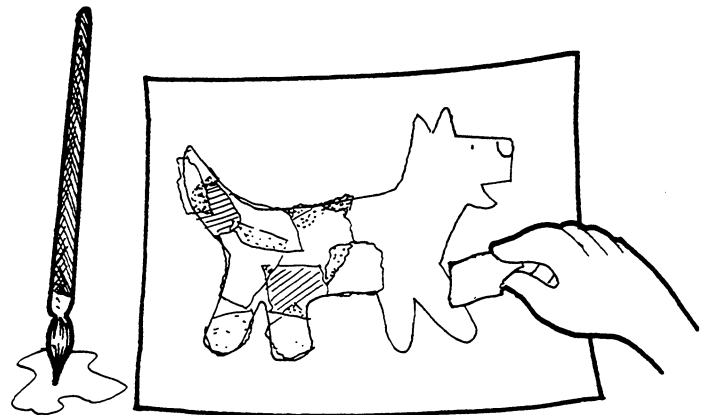
**Materials:** a variety of colored art tissue paper; brushes of various widths; containers of thinned white glue or laundry starch; scissors; something to sketch with; white or light-colored construction paper for background; smocks (may be old shirts buttoned backwards); newspaper (to cover tables); place for drying papers.



Begin by tearing a few small pieces of tissue of different colors and overlapping them on a small piece of white construction paper. Brush the top surfaces with starch. The liquid penetrates the thin paper, blends the colors, and bonds the tissue to the background sheet. Light colors on top of dark colors almost disappear, so it is best to start with light colors first.

The brush will often pick up color from the tissue and spread it to the background paper. This can become part of the design or can be avoided by stopping the brush before it reaches the background paper. Subtle shadings can be obtained by overlapping pieces of the same color. Brilliant combinations and contrasts appear when different colors overlap.

To add subject matter, sketch an outline or work without one to make planned shapes. Tissue can be cut to a sharp edge or torn for a softer look. Many small pieces may be combined to fill in an outline.



Let the tissue collages dry thoroughly before adding details and textures as Eric Carle does. Add line with crayons, pastels, and markers, and apply paint with brushes, sponges, and a variety of fabrics, objects, and gadgets. Paint may be brushed on an object such as an empty spool, or the object may be tapped on a sponge saturated with paint and then applied to the collage. Margarine tub lids are useful as trays to hold sponges used as paint pads. Besides spools, some interesting objects for printing are vegetables, bottle caps, plastic forks, rubbers, lace, and tracing wheels. Begin a class collection of printing objects.