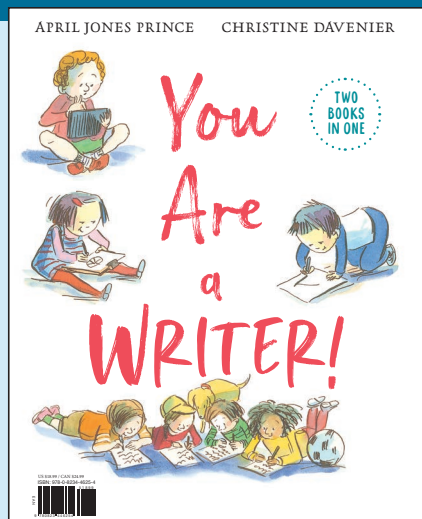
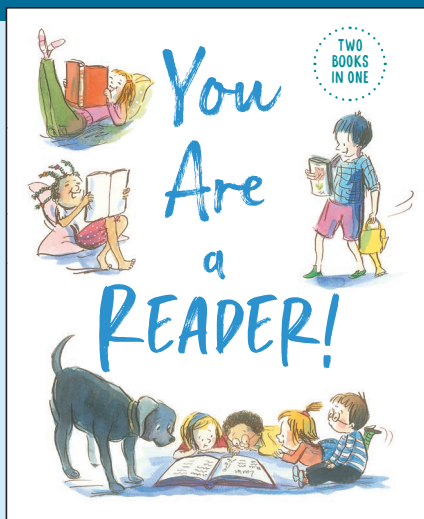


# HOLIDAY HOUSE | LESSON PLAN

Grades K—3



*You Are a Reader!*  
*You Are a Writer!*  
by April Jones Prince  
illustrated by Christine Davenier

Margaret Ferguson Books  
9780823446254

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*You are a Reader! / You are a Writer!* is a book made to be read twice, once from the front and once from the back. Read one way, children will see all the joys that reading can bring—fly—flip it over and they'll be inspired by the imaginative possibilities of writing!

With a jaunty rhyme that's great for reading aloud and a diverse cast of characters at various stages of reading and writing, there is something for everyone here. Learning to read? Scan, sound, simmer, think. You can guzzle words and ink. You might stumble; you might sigh. But readers practice, grow, and fly! Learning to write? Wake, watch, wonder, plot. You can weave with words and thoughts. Still staring at an empty page? Every writer knows that stage. Ask "What if?" Change your view. Try a pen—or stick—that's new. But writers read and draft, and fly!

## BEFORE READING

- Read the title, author, and illustrator.
- Show the front and back covers and ask, "Are you a reader? Are you a writer? Of course you are! Let's see if you can find yourself in this book!"
- Explain that this book is actually two stories in one.

## DURING READING

Begin with *You Are a Reader!* As you read, engage the children by encouraging them find to themselves in the different ways to be a reader.

Flip the book over and read *You Are a Writer!* As you read, engage the children by encouraging them to find themselves in the different ways to be a writer.

Both stories say "Don't give up!" Remind the children that becoming an expert reader and writer takes practice. Ask them, "What other activities require a lot of practice?"



## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

### FIVE SENSES WRITING

- Make a list (or draw pictures) of things you can see, hear, taste, smell, and feel.

### GENERATING WRITING TOPICS

- Draw a map of your backyard, house, playground, or other location. Put a small sticker on spots in the map where you experienced something. For example: Made it across the monkey bars. Climbed the tree. Fell off my bike. Found a buried treasure. Built a pillow and blanket fort. Baked cookies with Grandma.
- Divide a piece of paper by drawing a line vertically down the center. Make a list of the important people you know in the left column. In the right column next to each person, write a few words telling about a time you spent with him/her.

### JUICY WORDS

- Create a “Said is Dead” poster. As you read more stories aloud over the next week or so, add words to the poster that are used in place of “said.” For example: exclaimed, shouted, asked, reported, mentioned, whispered. Children that are reading independently can also add words that they find. Encourage children to use these juicy words in their own writing. You can repeat this process for other words such as big, sad, happy, good, nice.

### I AM A . . . WRITING

- Have children draw/write about themselves by finishing one of these sentences:
  - I am a writer because . . .
  - I am a reader when . . .
  - I am a . . . (dancer, artist, brother, sister, friend, soccer player, etc.)

### BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

- A way to encourage children to read is to have their peers recommend a book. Create a book or poster or bulletin board to display/share these offerings. Young children can write the name of the book and draw a picture. Older children can write a short summary of the book.

Guide created by Mary Beth Connolly, M.S.Ed, educational consultant and retired elementary/special education teacher.

## ABOUT THE CREATORS



**April Jones Prince** is the author of many books for young readers, including *Snowy Race*, illustrated by Christine Davenier; *You Are a Reader! You Are a Writer!*, also illustrated by Christine Davenier, and *What Do Wheels Do All Day?*, a *Child* magazine best book of the year. April loves to read novels in verse and write handwritten cards and thank-you notes. She lives in Massachusetts with her family.



**Christine Davenier** is the acclaimed illustrator of more than 60 books for children, including *Snowy Race* with Holiday House and the *New York Times* bestselling series *The Very Fairy Princess* by Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton, as well as the *New York Times* best illustrated *The First Thing My Mama Told Me* by Susan Marie Swanson, and *Miss Lina's Ballerinas* by Grace Maccarone. Christine loves to read poetry out loud, write notes to her daughter, and paint nature scenes. She lives in France.

