

## Empowerment Topic: Literary Arts Careers

### Lesson Objective

To help familiarize students with career possibilities in literary arts and to begin to explore the value of such careers.

### Preparation

Preview the video (1 minute 28 seconds) in advance of the lesson.

### Warm-up Activity

1. Talk with students about what comes to mind when they hear the phrase “literary arts.” Help children understand that a career in literary arts involves creative writing of stories, poetry, plays, scripts, etc.
2. Ask students to research careers in literary arts. (They can begin their research by typing the phrase “careers in literary arts” into an online search engine.)
3. Help students understand that a career in literary arts may not include ongoing secure employment, but may involve an artist moving from creative project to creative project or freelancing. (Explore the term *freelancing*; have students discuss the pros and cons of working in a series of temporary situations or freelancing vs. securing more traditional employment.)
4. Have students compile a list of literary arts-related jobs, complete with job descriptions and reasonable salary expectations (or freelance income) for each.
5. After completing their research, have students work together and/or with you to note in writing which literary arts jobs seem appealing and why.

### View the Video: *Literary Arts*

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, “Literary Arts Careers.” (Tip: You can use steps 2, 3, and 4 to establish a framework for watching the video, or just skip ahead to step 5.)
2. Explain that the video presents literary artists talking about why literary arts is a career choice that girls should consider.
3. Point out that each of the role models in the video is a creative writer and that the name of their career will appear on the screen as she is speaking.
4. Tell students that, as they view the video, they should listen for reasons they should consider literary arts as a career.
5. View the video together.
6. Tell students they are going to view the video again; before this second viewing, invite students to talk about the benefits (good parts) of working as a literary artist as discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video a second time.
7. Following the video viewing, have students tell about the types of literary arts careers they think they might enjoy learning more about and why.

### **Video Follow-Up**

1. Ask students to discuss or write about their video-related questions, comments, reactions and responses.
2. Invite students to record specific things they learned about literary arts careers featured in the video and to reflect upon their observations (e.g., "I didn't know that literary arts careers could be so much fun and creative. It would be great to be paid well for doing such an interesting job.").
3. Encourage students to edit any written work so it can be shared with classmates.
4. Use student writings as a springboard to further discussion.

### **Extension Activities**

- Invite students to learn about other types of literary arts careers not included in the video and to list some possible benefits of working in each one.
- Invite students to choose one piece of advice and make a mini motivational poster to display in the classroom or in the hallways (or to decorate a notebook or to take home) as a reminder of what it means to be confident.

### **Related Questions to Explore**

Use the list of questions below to help students learn more about careers in literary arts and why they should consider careers in literary arts.

- Why might some students not consider a career in literary arts? How can you discover if those concerns are true?
- Many of the literary artists talked about how working in creative ways helped them stretch and grow personally. What do you think they meant by that?
- How could you learn to prepare yourself for a career in literary arts?
- Is it possible for a career in literary arts to include interests you may have in other areas? Explain your answer.
- What are some ways the career women in the video may have prepared for their careers in literary arts?
- Besides exploring the Career Girls website, what are some other ways you can learn more about career possibilities in literary arts?