



## Learning on the Great Lakes Seaway Trail

*One of America's Byways*

### **Cultural Lesson #4**

**Subject: Local Writers**

**Grade Level: 4 – 6**

**Irene F Sullivan**

### **Anticipatory Set:**

What kind of books do the students like to read?

### **New York State Standards:**

**Language Arts:** Standards 1,2,3,4

**The Arts:** Standard #3 – Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art

Standard #4 – Understanding the Cultural Contributions of the Arts

**Social Studies:** Standard 1.1, 1.2 - History of the United States and New York

### **Objective:**

Students will be exposed to different local authors' work. The students will write a poem about someone or something special to them.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this lesson is to expose students to the local area's talented writers.

### **Summary:**

Writing is one way of expression. We have books written about our local area's history, culture and its beautiful scenery. People have written short stories, novels, and poems. The book "Funny Cide" is about the local owners who live in Sackets Harbor and their racing horse. Some books give a historical account of local towns like the book about Watertown written by Donna Dutton. Listed below are just a few of the local writers in Jefferson County.

### **Local Writers:**

1. **Robert E. and Jeannie I Brennan** "Images of America: Sackets Harbor", Arcadia Publishing, ISBN 0738502855
2. **Donna M Dutton** "Images of America, Watertown", Arcadia Publishing, 2001, ISBN 0738509221
3. **Dave Stoodley**, "The Legends of Watertown Speedway", Speedway Press Inc. 2003, ISBN 0967743842
4. **Ted Cornell**, "Through Cancer in God's Hands", In God's Hands Publishing Co., 2002, ISBN 097213770x
5. **Cheri Revai**, "Haunted Northern New York", North Country Books, 2002, ISBN 0925168459
6. **Sally Jenkins**, "Funny Cide", Putnam's Sons, 2004, ISBN 0399151796
7. **James P. Barry**, "Ships of the Great Lakes", Thunder Bay Press
8. **Michael Ringer**, "River Life" The Thousand Islands St. Lawrence River", St. Lawrence Gallery, 1999, ISBN 0964044447



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9. **Kourtnee D. Scriminger**, "I'm Nobody But Myself", Fourth Coast Entertainment, 2004, ISBN 141401709x
10. **David J. Pitkin**, "Ghosts of the Northeast", Aurora Publishers, 2002, ISBN 0966392523
11. **Frank A. Reed**, "Lumberjack Sky Pilot", North Country Books, 2001, ISBN 0925168815
12. **John H. Briant**, "One Cop's Story: A Life Remembered", Chalet Pub, 1995, ISBN 0964832704
13. **Hope I. Marston**, "Big Rigs", Cobblehill Books, 1993, ISBN 0525651233
14. **Ruth Timm**, "North Country Tales, Truths, and Trivia", North Country Books, 2002, ISBN 0925168246
15. **Stan Thompson**, "Beaver River Bedtime Stories", Beaver River Press, 2002, ISBN 0972221557
16. **Jean F. Capron**, "The Day He Left", Royal Fireworks Press, 2003, ISBN 088092442x

### **Materials:**

1. Books written by people for the local area.
2. CD's of different background music.

### **Teach:**

1. Discuss with the students the different writing styles. Read a couple of passages from a couple of local writers. Discuss how some of the work is a short story, novel, or a poem. Discuss how some of the passages are about local history.
2. Instruct the students to write a poem about someone or something that is very special to them. Have the students pick out background music that relates or complements their poem. Discuss with the students different styles of poems they can choose from.
3. Set up a day for the students to share their work with the class. The student will read their poem and play the background music they have selected.

### **Guided Practice:**

Help students work on their poems.

### **Independent Practice:**

The students work on writing their poems.

### **Extended Activities:**

1. Have the students do research on the different local writers in the area.
2. Have a local writer come and visit the classroom and share some of their work.