

Biography Builders — Book Project (2 Sessions)

Outcome: Students create a biography book about a real person using facts from research (short summary or full 11–page plan) and publish it in Build My Story.

Teacher Prep (5 minutes before class)

Decide on the topic your students will write about. This could be anything you are currently teaching!

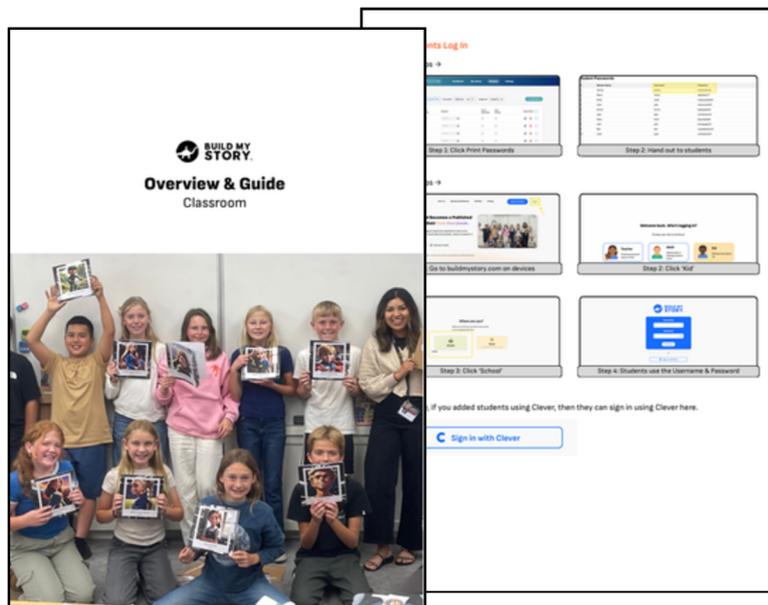
- *Choose your focus: Women’s History Month / Black History Month / Change–Makers*
- *Pick ONE resource type for your students. Below are a few ideas. Build My Story provides passages to use:*
 - short YouTube clip (2–4 min)*
 - read–aloud excerpt*
 - class text/article*
 - 1–page passage (Included In Resources)*
- *Print Worksheets*

Standards snapshot

- *Informative writing: biography summary/book (CCSS W.2)*
- *Key details + sequence: facts, timeline, importance (CCSS RI.1–3)*
- *Digital publishing: create and share (CCSS W.6)*

Using the BMS Guide

We provide a supplementary guide to go along with this lesson plan. It gives an overview of the in-class project, including how students create their books, where to access resources, what you do as the teacher, how to communicate with families, and a suggested timeline.



Session 1 (45 minutes) — Learn + Plan + Write

① Launch & Learn (6–8 min)

Teacher:

- Introduce the person/theme (bolt-on to what you're teaching)
- Play a short video OR read a short passage aloud
- Say: "We only write true facts today."

Students:

- Listen/read and spot key facts

Quick check: Students can answer: "Who is this?" and "Why do they matter?"

② Plan with Templates (12–14 min)

Teacher:

- Hand out Figure Profile (for the character)
- Hand out Biography Builder (facts & planning)
- Model 1 example: "Here's a fact. Here's where I found it."

Students:

- Fill Profile (look, clothing, time period, place, props)
 - Fill Biography Builder with short notes
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③ Write (20–25 min)

Note: If students are typing directly into the Book Builder, move ahead to Session 2.

Option 1: Short Summary (recommended for most students)

- Students write 5 lines using the helpers:
- Who/When/Where → About them → Challenge → Contributions → Impact

Option 2: Full 11-Page Biography (200 Words Total)

- Students write a complete 11-page biography using the page guide. They write one main idea per page, totaling about 200 words across the full book.

Exit ticket: A finished short summary OR at least pages 1–4 planned.

Session 2 (45 minutes) — Build the Book + Quick Revise

① Build My Story Publishing (15–20 min)

Teacher:

- Model how to enter text and select Educational type/style
- Remind: “No made-up facts. Use your Biography Builder.”

Students:

- Type their short summary OR their full draft
- Generate images using Profile details (clothing/props/setting)

Done check: Book has title + pages + images + author name.

② Revise + Share (20–25 min)

Teacher:

- Pair check: “Is it true? In order? Does it say why they matter?”

Students:

- Make edits to their book
- Fix 1–2 things for clarity/accuracy
- Share one favorite page (partner or quick gallery walk)