

Thanks for purchasing this Author Bio activity!

Here are a few suggested uses for this print-and-go worksheet:

1. Book your school's computer lab or have students access information on their own devices. Assign students to either work solo or in teams of two. Once the grids are complete, have students share and compare answers in small groups, focusing on the four interesting facts they discovered, the meaningful quote, and the personal/professional obstacle. Then, pull the students into a full-class discussion, having each group present an interesting fact, quote, or obstacle until every team has contributed. No repeats allowed.

This assignment works great as an "into" activity, but it could also be a "through" activity to add variety to your in-class routine as you work through a longer work. If you're using this as an "after" activity, during the discussion I would also ask how any of the biography elements are reflected in the author's work/s the class just studied.

2. Assign the worksheet as a traditional homework assignment. Launch the discussion mentioned in #1 at the beginning of the next class period.

3. Use the grid as the beginning assignment to a larger project where students must read two or three pieces by this author. Later, this author study could be turned into a compare/contrast essay or a speech presentation, if you wish to expand the assignment. (Author Bio sheets on a variety of different writers are available in my shop if you want to vary speech topics within one class.)

4. Use as an emergency sub plan.

*A note about sources: When students begin researching, most of them will automatically want to go to Wikipedia, looking to take material solely from that site. Before this happens, I let students know that **Wikipedia is a fantastic website – as a starting spot**. Due to the unvetted nature of submissions, citations of Wikipedia as a source don't earn credit on academic work in my class. Instead, I emphasize that Wikipedia is a helpful starting spot for research because of the high-quality information available from the links within the "Sources," "Further Reading," and "External Links" sections at the bottom of each Wikipedia entry. Those links will (usually) take students to higher-quality source material that is seen as academically credible. For students who might struggle with this, I also sometimes just give a limited source pool, sending them directly to biography.com or history.com.*

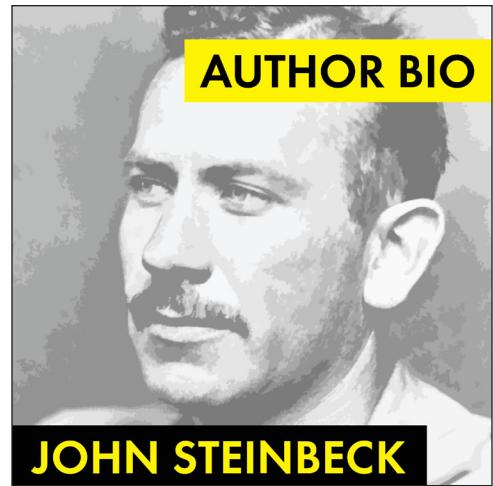
I hope you and your students enjoy this activity! If you need an Author Bio worksheet for any author not currently offered in my shop, please drop me a note at laurarandazzo@yahoo.com and I'll do my best to quickly make that happen.

Laura Randazzo

Blog: <https://laurarandazzo.com>

Shop: <http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Laura-Randazzo>

YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/yy7cp8b5>



Directions: As you research this author, fill in the following information. If you run out of space on the grid for any of your answers, feel free to continue writing on the back of this sheet.

Date of birth:	Nationality:	 A black and white portrait of John Steinbeck, showing him from the chest up, looking slightly to his left. He has dark hair and a mustache, and is wearing a light-colored shirt.
Date of death:	Education:	
Cause of death:		
Title of breakout work, the first piece of writing that garnered attention:		
When was Steinbeck considered a success as a writer? Was he alive then?		
Names of two other important works by Steinbeck and their genres: 1. 2.	Two memorable characters created by Steinbeck: 1. 2.	
Four interesting facts I learned about John Steinbeck: 1. 2. 3. 4.	Three adjectives to describe Steinbeck's life: Two adjectives to describe Steinbeck's literary works: One meaningful quote from this author: Source: Describe a personal or professional obstacle Steinbeck faced:	
Source/s of this information:	JOHN STEINBECK	