



THE POSSIBLY IMPOSSIBLE RESEARCH PROJECT

USING DIGITAL RESEARCH AND SOCIAL MEDIA
TO TEACH ARCHIVAL RESEARCH METHODS

DR. REBEKAH FITZSIMMONS

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Presentation and materials available at rebekahfitzsimmons.wordpress.com/current-research

COLLABORATION PARTNERS

- Writing and Communication Program in the School of Literature, Media and Communication at the Georgia Institute of Technology
 - Rebekah Fitzsimmons, Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellow
- Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature at the University of Florida
 - Suzan Alteri, Curator
- Georgia Institute of Technology Libraries
 - Karen Viars, Literature, Media, and Communication Subject Librarian
 - Alison Valk, Multimedia Librarian

ACADEMIC CONTEXT FOR THE PROJECT

“GUIDING SCIENCE” ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND THE RECOVERY OF FEMALE SCIENCE WRITERS/SCIENTISTS IN THE LONG 19TH CENTURY

CONTRIBUTIONS OF VICTORIAN WOMEN TO SCIENCE

Illustrations from
Lucy Rider Meyer's
*Real Fairy Folks, Or,
The Fairyland of
Chemistry*
(1887)



SOME OF THE REAL FAIRY FOLKS. *Frontis*

“ You may notice that the name *hydrogen* resembles *oxygen*. Oxygen means acid-former, and hydrogen means water-former; and though the first name is a mistake, be-



FAIRY PICTURE OF WATER.

cause there are acids without oxygen, the last name is not a mistake. Hydrogen is the great water-former. Shall I draw you a fairy picture of water?— just *H* and *O* united, you see.”

GUIDING SCIENCE: PUBLICATIONS BY WOMEN IN THE ROMANTIC AND VICTORIAN AGES

Guiding Science

Publications by Women in the Romantic and Victorian Ages

[Home](#)

[About the Authors](#)

[Annotated Bibliography](#)

[About Us](#)

Support for the Guiding Science bibliography project was provided by a 2015 American Library Association Carnegie Whitney Grant.

This page shows the author and titles for the project as well as the annotation. To see publication information for editions, please click on the author/title or description. All bibliographic metadata and links to full-text appears only after clicking on title or description due to the length of content. Annotations were authored by S. Alteri, J. Prussing, and A. Warwick and reviewed by Dr. A. Rauch and D. Van Kleeck.

For more on the people involved in this project, see the About Us page.

Questions and comments about this project may be submitted to the project manager, Suzan Alteri at salteri@ufl.edu.

Search:

**A.L.O.E. [Tucker, Charlotte Maria]
(1821-1893)., *Fairy Frisket, Or, Peeps at
Insect Life. Comparative editions.***

A sequel to the successful "Fairy-Know-A-Bit," this title explores the lives of insects through the knowledge of a fairy named Frisket, the sister to Know-a-bit. The story line follows these two fairies and their learned adventure with two human boys, Sydney and Philibert. The fairies take interest in the characteristics of humans, particularly those selfish and unselfish and provide didactic lessons on these traits through the two

THE HISTORY AND RHETORIC OF SCIENCE WRITING FOR CHILDREN

Full syllabus available at
RebekahFitzsimmons.com

THE HISTORY AND RHETORIC OF SCIENCE WRITING FOR CHILDREN

ENGL 1102; Spring 2018

**School of Literature,
Media,
and Communication**

**Writing and
Communication Program**



Instructor: Dr. Rebekah Fitzsimmons

Class Meeting:

Section C3	8:00am-8:50am	Stephen C. Hall 106
Section J2	10:10am-11:00am	Stephen C. Hall 106
Section B5	11:15am-12:05pm	Clough 129

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THE POSSIBLY IMPOSSIBLE RESEARCH PROJECT

STRUCTURE

SCAFFOLDING

“THE POSSIBLY IMPOSSIBLE RESEARCH PROJECT”

UNIT 1 The Possibly Impossible Research Project

ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

The Possibly Impossible Research Project (180 points) - For this assignment, students will choose from a list of authors of early children's picture books supplied by the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature at the University of Florida. These authors are largely unknown and the library has very little information about their lives, publishing history, education, or other work. Each student will engage in original research to locate and record as much biographical information about his or her chosen author as possible, using both digital, physical, and archival methods of research. The ultimate goal will be to create a public facing digital biography of this author to be added to Wikipedia.

HOWEVER, it is entirely possible that a student will be unable to find much information at all on the chosen author, making the creation of a complete, detailed, multimodal Wikipedia biography IMPOSSIBLE! Therefore, the final artifact for this unit will be a portfolio of work; for some students, this artifact may take the more traditional form of a written biography, a bibliography, and supporting documents, while for other students, it may take the form of various process documents, detailing the research work completed, in order to help future researchers build from the work already completed.

Students should approach this project as a journey into the unknown. They should be prepared to make mistakes, get messy, and potentially come up empty handed. A large part of the project will include figuring out how to make failure and frustration productive, how to document a research process so that future researchers might benefit, and how to enjoy the research rabbit holes.



FINAL ARTIFACT: RESEARCH PORTFOLIO (100 pts)

To successfully complete this research portfolio, students must choose **at least 3** of the following elements:

- **Public Facing Multimodal Biographical Article on Author via Wikipedia** - minimum 250 words, following the tone, format, and style of Wikipedia. Multimodal elements like images, links, sources required. Turn in screenshot.
- **Public Facing Biographical Information for Baldwin Website**- minimum 300 words, following format and style set by the Baldwin Library (largely academic). Turn in text or screenshot.
- **Bibliography of Sources in MLA format** - minimum of 5 sources, cited in MLA 8
- **Archived Twitter Research Journal**- minimum of 25 student generated tweets on the research process; may include responses, replies, retweets, and commentary/narrative. Must be archived and turned in as PDF.
- **Research Narrative**- 600-800 word first person narrative of student's research process; may include multimodal elements such as screenshots, embedded Tweets, photos, handwritten materials.
- **Archived Correspondence with Librarians, Scholars, Archivists etc.**- minimum of 4 part correspondence (sent from student, reply from librarian, response from student, reply from librarian), or 4 queries on the part of the student; correspondence may provide vital information or be evidence of a dead end.
- **Archived Image Files** - minimum of 5 relevant images, such as family portraits, illustrations by the author, estate images, photos of materials discovered; images archived and turned in as a PDF

Students should archive materials as appropriate, combine into one PDF with an appropriate cover page, and turn in to Canvas no later than **11:55pm on Monday, February 12**

Full assignment sheet available at rebekahfitzsimmmons.com

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POSSIBLY IMPOSSIBLE TASK

As described on the assignment sheet

SCAFFOLDING: TWITTER RESEARCH JOURNAL

PROJECT STAGE: TWITTER RESEARCH JOURNAL (50 pts)

Each student will use Twitter to chronicle the research process, share resources, seek out assistance from other academics on Twitter and add productive discussion to the course research project as a whole.

At the start of Unit 1, each student will use their Twitter feed to begin documenting and chronicling their research into their chosen author. In addition to the standard #102kidsci hashtag, each research journal tweet should include #RJ.

Over the course of their research, from January 22-February 12, students will be expected to send at least **30 tweets documenting their research process**. Tweets can be multimodal and informal. Tweets for this assignment may include (but are not limited to):

- Questions the student hopes to answer or would like help in answering
- Sources the student has found to be useful, either for primary or secondary research
- Observations from research or from work with experts like librarians
- Relevant discoveries from sources, other students, experts, online sources, archives, correspondence etc.
- Search terms, paths of inquiry, key terms, databases explored,
- Dead ends, disappointing results, lack of responses, setbacks, failures, frustrations
- Plans, drafts, versions of portfolio pieces, such as text for Wikipedia article or links to images

Students will also be required to **REPLY to at least 10 tweets from peers** who are also engaged in original research.

Therefore, by the end of Unit 1, students should have, at minimum, **40 tweets total** dedicated to their research process with the hashtag #RJ. Students should aim to use Twitter as a research journal to both record and reflect on their research process as well as to provide feedback and learn from others' progress.

As always with Twitter assignments, keep in mind the potential for a wider audience; students should strive to make Tweets understandable to those outside our course. Making use of additional (existing) hashtags or participating in online forums or discussions may provide you with additional feedback or advice from other scholars. Students should also consider also how to make use of Twitter genre conventions (like threads, group tweets, or tagging) to help communicate ideas to that wider public audience.

SCAFFOLDING: BLOG POST PROGRESS REPORT

PROJECT STAGE: BLOG POST 1 & RESPONSES (30 pts)

Wednesday, January 31 by 11:55pm: Students will write a 300-500 word blog post on the course blog detailing their progress with the Possibly Impossible Research Process. Each blog post must contain the following:

1. The name of the author being researched
2. A summary of the work done to date
3. A brief reflection on the research process (what has worked, what hasn't, what is next to try)
then EITHER
4. A proposed plan for the final portfolio
OR
4. 1-2 questions or concerns the student needs help addressing in order to complete the project*

Friday, February 2 by 11:55pm: Each student will then respond to at least 2 peer blog posts, using the reply function on the course blog, with constructive feedback. Each brief response (100-200 words) should offer feedback, advice, information, tips, or ideas about how the original poster can work through their concerns, improve their research methodology, access materials, or move to new avenues of investigation. Students should consider these two responses an open-ended peer review and should strive to help fellow students improve their work through constructive criticism and concrete feedback.

*Questions should be content based ("How do I best track down publication data on a book? Where can I find census records for the UK?") rather than procedural ("How many tweets do we need? When is the project due?")

PEDAGOGICAL GOALS

1. RESEARCH FEMALE STEM AUTHORS
2. DIGITAL RESEARCH (BEYOND GOOGLE)
3. THE PROFESSOR DOESN'T KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS
4. ENGAGE IN DIFFICULT ORIGINAL RESEARCH THAT MIGHT FAIL

GOAL 1: RESEARCH FEMALE STEM AUTHORS AND HISTORICAL CONTEXTS

Murray @eng_1102_Murray · Feb 6
How was it that this woman was really close with the royals in London but I can barely find information. #1102kidsci #rj

Rebekah Fitzsimmons @DrFitzPhD
Replying to @eng_1102_Murray
That is an excellent question. And honestly, kind of the point. #1102kidsci



5:38 PM - 6 Feb 2018

1 Like

Nana Awere @nawereGT
At this point though, I know more about my author's husband than about her... 🙄 #1102kidsci #RJ

4:15 PM - 9 Feb 2018

vunden @vundenpatel · Feb 12
Replying to @nawereGT
omg! same, talk about patriarchy. but on another note, the person I researched for so long may not even be her husband #yikes #1102kidsci #RJ

Rohit Mittapalli @roh56 · Feb 9
Replying to @nawereGT
Although not the case for me, I've seen a lot of people relate with that. Searching for male figures in their life is useful since there typically is more information about them. #1102kidsci #RJ

GOAL 2: DIGITAL RESEARCH (BEYOND GOOGLE)

Francesca Kwok @FrancescaKwok

Update on my author's birth date! So I emailed the admin of the MA Vital Records website, and it turned out 10 December 1815 was her baptism date, and now I know birth certificates did not exist in 1815...
[#1102kidsci](#) [#RJ](#)

MA Vital Records Project

Patricia, Karina
Dear Patricia, Thank you so much for your help. It would be really great if I can acquire a copy of the baptism record before...

Vital Records Admin - vadmin@ma-vitalrecords.org
Replying to Patricia Karina

Dear Patricia, Karina,
I read a little more reading some of the information as you didn't give her married name. The first thing to note is that her maiden name isn't recorded. What you can see for baptism date. This is not uncommon. According to the published records, she was baptised at "Theological Seminary Church". My research indicates this is what is now called Phillips Academy in Andover. There could be no trace as we if they have records of baptisms done in 1815. If yes, I'll see if they will e-mail you a copy of the record.

There were no birth certificates in 1815. These didn't come into being until the early 20th century in 1863 it was just an entry in a ledger book. Sometimes they were slips of paper given to the town clerk if the data's got recorded, work there is no record.

John Douglas Jones Administration MA Vital Records Project
In being services of our new address, 12/10/2016 12:12:55 - [http://www.ma-vitalrecords.org](#)

From: Patricia Karina
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2016 20:22
To: vadmin@ma-vitalrecords.org
Subject: MA Vital Records Project

4:58 PM - 10 Feb 2016

1 Like

1 Retweet

1 Like

1 Reply

1 Like

1 Reply

Kaylee Cornell @kconell_gatech - Feb 11
Replying to @FrancescaKwok
You got lucky, this person seems so helpful! They even made a call for you trying to find the baptismal record! [#1102kidsci](#) [#RJ](#)

Alicia @gtac334

For those with American authors, here's a nearly 1000 page book with brief paragraphs on American women that might mention your author:
[books.google.com/books/about/Wo ...](https://books.google.com/books/about/Women's_Who's_Who_of_America)
[#1102kidsci](#) [#RJ](#)

OF AMERICA

Women's Who's who of America
books.google.com

12:47 AM - 5 Feb 2016

3 Retweets 4 Likes

4 Retweets 4 Likes

1 Reply

Madison Moltoso @madison_moltoso - Feb 5
Replying to @gtac334
Thank you for sharing! I had seen classmates share resources like this for British authors, but I hadn't seen anyone find one for American authors. I'm going to search for my author now! Research is so much more productive when we can share resources like this! [#RJ](#) [#1102kidsci](#)

1 Retweet 1 Like

Alicia @gtac334 - Feb 5
Aw, of course I hope you find your author in there! [#1102kidsci](#) [#RJ](#)

1 Retweet 1 Like

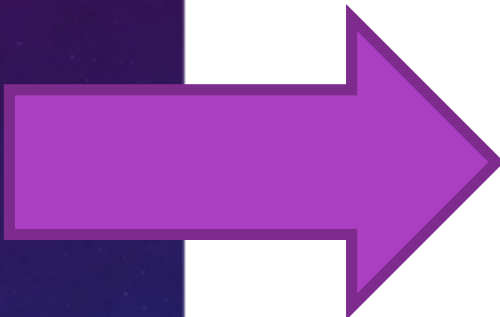
Ben Blacklock @blacklock_1102 - Feb 5
Replying to @gtac334
Thanks for the suggestion! Although I didn't find my author in there, the book reminds me of some of my own sources that I could share with everyone.
[#1102kidsci](#) [#RJ](#)

1 Retweet 1 Like

Zee @zee_gf - Feb 15
Replying to @gtac334
Thanks for sharing! I'll definitely look through it to see if I can find my author

GOAL 3: THE PROFESSOR DOESN'T KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS

Charlotte Wake: Possibly Impossible?




When first receiving the assignment for 'The Possibly Impossible Research Project,' I thought, surely Dr. Fitz has researched these authors, and knows information exists on them. It's just hard to find, so she's challenging us to develop our research skills. Well, that has clearly proved not to be the case.


Over the past few weeks, I have been researching Charlotte Wake, author of *The Beavers and the Elephant: Stories in Natural History for Children*. When first beginning, I opened up Google, thinking this would not be nearly as hard as the assignment made it seem. However, it turns out that the people of Google care way more about The **Charlotte** Center at **Wake** Forest University than they do about my author.

Luckily, I was able to find a complete copy of Wake's book on archive.org. Additionally, in


THERE IS NO "CORRECT" ANSWER

 **vunden** @vundenpatel · Feb 12
Smh he didn't even mention his wife or family why did I read that whole article. #1102kidsci #RJ

2 1 1 1

 **Connor Land** @cland_eng1102 · Feb 12
So many things that I read ended up being a complete waste of time.. #RJ #1102kidsci


1 1 1 1

 **Karen Viars** @karenaviars Following

Replying to @cland_eng1102 @vundenpatel

And thus is ever the path of research. It's true in sciences and engineering (and life!), too -- sometimes you try a thing and it doesn't work, and then you try something else. Eliminating a path of inquiry is still valuable. I'm proud of you all for learning so much! #1102kidsci

11:41 AM - 13 Feb 2018

1 Retweet 2 Likes 

 **Madison Moitoso** @madison_moitoso · Feb 2
Finished skimming through every result that came up for the search terms "Stella Louise Hook" and "Little People and their New Homes in Meadows, Woods and Waters" for every Literature, Media and Communication database on the @GTLibrary and found nothing #DeadEnds #RJ #1102kidsci

2 1 1 1

 **Karen Viars** @karenaviars · Feb 3
Nothing is still a result. What are you going to try next? #1102kidsci

2 1 1 1

 **Madison Moitoso** @madison_moitoso Follow

Replying to @karenaviars @GTLibrary

I'm going to try some more search terms in the library databases, including Hook's publisher and the cemetery in which she was buried. I'm also going to dig deeper into her family tree to see if she was related to anyone important! #RJ #1102kidsci

8:32 PM - 3 Feb 2018

GOAL 4: ENGAGE IN REAL* RESEARCH THAT MIGHT FAIL



Molly engl1102 @mollyengl1102 Follow

realizing i've never really had to do real, intense researching before this project
[#1102kidsci](#) [#rj](#)

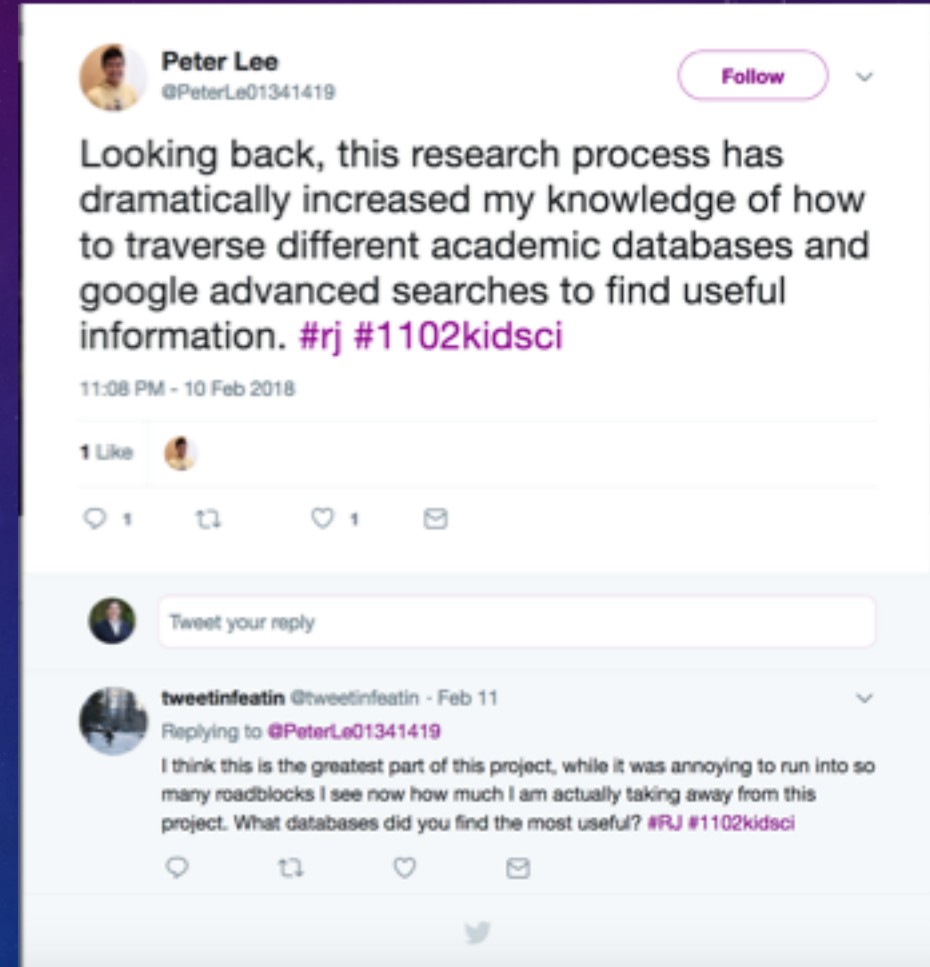
11:13 AM - 11 Feb 2018

1 comment

Tweet your reply

Mara Murphy @MaraMurphy_GT · Feb 11
Replying to @mollyengl1102
I 100% agree with this statement. I think that this researching experience I have gained will prove beneficial in the future if I need to research again. [#1102kidsci](#) [#RJ](#)

1 Like



Peter Lee @PeterLe01341419 Follow

Looking back, this research process has dramatically increased my knowledge of how to traverse different academic databases and google advanced searches to find useful information. [#rj](#) [#1102kidsci](#)

11:08 PM - 10 Feb 2018

1 Like

Tweet your reply

tweetinfoatin @tweetinfoatin · Feb 11
Replying to @PeterLe01341419
I think this is the greatest part of this project, while it was annoying to run into so many roadblocks I see now how much I am actually taking away from this project. What databases did you find the most useful? [#RJ](#) [#1102kidsci](#)

*Real = Difficult and/or Original

BRICK WALLS

Helping students manage failure

Karin Westbrook @WestbrookKarin · 8
I don't know what other key words I could use to find any information on Mrs. Youmans. I've hit a brick wall. #1102kidsci #RJ



7 1

Zong-ru Wee @zwee119 · Feb 8
You'll get a breakthrough soon! You might want to try any of the british museums and archives or even the Oxford Dictionary of National Biographies. Those worked for me and might work for you too! #RJ #1102kidsci



1 1

Karin Westbrook @WestbrookKarin [Follow](#)

Replying to @zwee119

I have already tried those and unfortunately, nothing. #1102kidsci #RJ

9:08 AM - 9 Feb 2018

1 Like

Robert Smith @RDevinSmith · Feb 12
Replying to @WestbrookKarin
I am exactly the same way man I hit the brick wall a week ago



1 1

Spencer Lally @gatesch186 · Feb 12
Replying to @WestbrookKarin
this is the most relatable tweet I've seen in doing this project #RJ #1102kidsci

1 1

Molly eng1102 @mollyeng1102 · Feb 11
Replying to @WestbrookKarin
if possible, find family members! it was unbelievably useful, thought my author was a ghost until i connected her to others. #1102kidsci #RJ

1 1

Peter Lee @PeterLe01341419 · Feb 9
Replying to @WestbrookKarin
Wow accurate depiction of my current struggle.

1 1

Hannah Ressler @hannahr1102 · Feb 9
Replying to @WestbrookKarin
Relatable! I've been looking at a lot of lists of names - like a list of people baptized, or a list of the "County Families" in the time period my author was born. I was able to find out who her family was through that. #1102kidsci #RJ

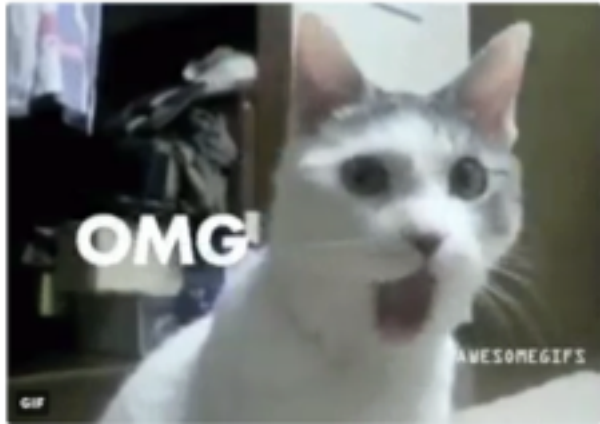
1 1

DIGITAL COACHING

Maxim ENGL 1102 @MaximENGL1102 · Feb 7
Found a picture of my author! #RJ #1102kidsci



Karen Viars @karenaviars
Following
Replying to @MaximENGL1102
Nice work! Also, THAT BONNET. #1102kidsci



I had emailed the librarian at Harvard University, the school that holds the copy of my author's book For Girls. The man has gotten back to me with absolutely nothing aside from more articles about her revealing nothing.....
#RJ
#1102kidsci

Rebekah Fitzsimmons @DrFitzPhD

Replying to @mdume717

So. Frustrating. (Remember to send that thank you follow up anyway!)



William Donspeare @db110223 · Jan 31
Aaaaagghhhh just found a new source and finished my blog post. I'm feeling great. I'm gonna waste the next few hours doing nothing important. That's just what I do. #RJ #1102kidsci

Rebekah Fitzsimmons @DrFitzPhD

Replying to @db110223

I just want to say that this is ABSOLUTELY a vital part of the research process. You have to give your brain time to recharge (which is also why you should start projects early, so you have time for breaks!) #1102kidsci



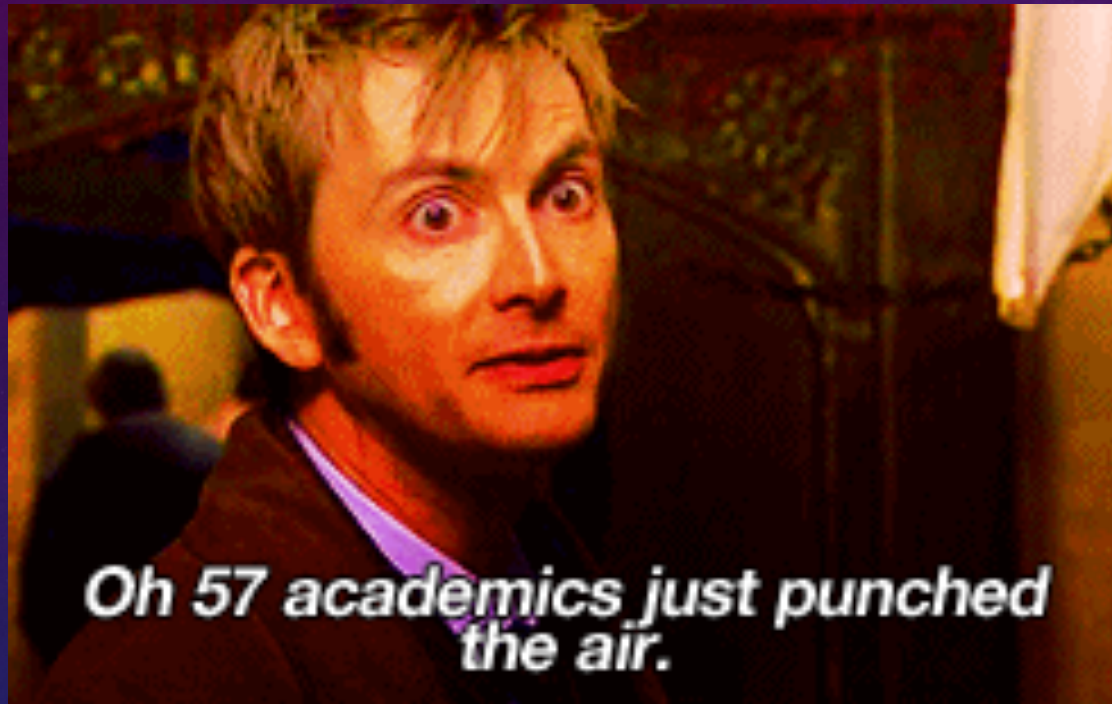
OUTCOMES

RESEARCH OUTPUT

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

FACULTY TAKE AWAYS

I REALLY UPPED MY GIF GAME



RESEARCH OUTPUT

Article [Talk](#)

[Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#)

Kate Louise Brown

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Kate Louise Brown (May 8, 1857, [Adams, Massachusetts](#)^[l]–?) was a [children's educator](#) and [author](#) who wrote 17 works in a total of 41 publications,^[k] in addition to poems, songs, and magazine articles.^[k] She is best known for the books, *The Plant Baby and Its Friends*, *Little People*, *Alice and Tom*, and *Stories in Songs*.^[l]

Brown was born in Adams, Massachusetts^[l] and had her first poem published in print at age 9.^[k] She wrote many children's scientific novels, poems, and periodical articles,^[k] many of which surround [nature](#) and [botany](#) themes. For example, her book *The Plant Baby and Its Friends*, published in 1896, explains botany like the plant is a child. Brown believed in presenting advanced topics to children in an interesting way as a story, not in textbook form.^[k]

While she was most famous for her books, Brown also wrote poems for children ("Goddesses", "The Return", "Clappers", "The Christ Clappers") and music for kindergarten marching plays.^[k] Her poems were featured in [children's textbooks](#) for school.

Early life [\[edit \]](#)

Brown was born in the [Berkshire](#) countryside of Massachusetts and grew up spending her time outside, flourishing her love for nature as she studied birds, animals, and plants.^[k]

After her first poem was published at 9, she was given an encouraging letter by the publisher to keep writing. This initial success drove her to begin writing plays and stories. She even began a weekly magazine alongside two children whose parents were authors.

As a child, she drew inspiration from "Ode to Evening," by [William Collins](#), "Daffodils," also known as "[I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud](#)", and "Cynthia" which shaped her future poetry.^[k]

Adult life [\[edit \]](#)

Her first novel was a story about [southern life](#) and [slavery](#) with the main protagonist dying at the end.^[k] Her later novels greatly contrast this story as she began writing about educational, religious, and science-based topics.


Brown's adult life consisted of teaching and writing. During the day, she taught in association with famous children's teachers of the 19th century: [Elizabeth Peabody](#) and [Mary Tyler Peabody Mann](#). When she wasn't teaching, she wrote novels, poems, articles, and songs.^[k] Some of her most popular novels help children interact with science and nature. *Alice and Tom* is a book of lessons that follows the lives of the two children and the interaction between nature and humans. She also contributed to religious magazines and periodicals. She composed textbooks for children's writing and literature, like *The Interstate Second Reader*, and *A Third Reader*.^[k]

In *The Plant Baby and Its Friends*, the book is "To Sarah Louise Arnold," a fellow children's writer and grammar teacher, who also was president of the [Girl Scouts](#) in 1925.^[k] Arnold has "The Little Seed"^[k] published in one of her textbooks for teaching [grammar](#) and literature. Brown was very active in the educational community, as she was in the [Author's Club](#),^[k] and had many connections with famous writers.

References [\[edit \]](#)

- ↑ ^[a] Harringshaw, William T. *Harringshaw's National Library of American Biography*, vol. 1, American Publisher's Association, 1909. catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000201356/Cts.
- ↑ ^[b] "Brown, Kate Louise 1857-." *WorldCat Identities*. 1 Jan. 1994. worldcat.org/identities/locn-n87116489/.
- ↑ ^[c] Boston Daily Globe. "LOVES CHILDREN: Kate Louise Brown Bred in the Berkshires." *Proquest Historical Newspapers, The Boston Globe*. search-proquest-com.pro.library.gatech.edu/bookview/500534327?accountid=111027.
- ↑ ^[d] Brown, Kate Louise. "Two Little Shoes." *C19 Index - Information Site*, C19: The Nineteenth Century Index. c19index.chadwyck.com/search/Fullrec.do?d=2005641903&actionQueryType=Fullrec&actionQueryIndex=&actionArea=periodicals&forward-citation&area=periodicals&origin=rec.
- ↑ ^[e] Brown, Kate Louise. *Plant Baby and Its Friends*. Silver Burdett and Company Publishers, 1896.
- ↑ ^[f] "The Little Seed." *Stepping Stones to Literature: A Third Reader*, by Sarah Louise Arnold and Charles B. Gilbert, Silver, Burdett, and Company, 1902, pg. 62.
- ↑ ^[g] "The Plant Baby and Its Friends".
- ↑ ^[h] "Sarah Louise Arnold Papers." *Guide to the Sarah Louise Arnold Papers, 1869-1954*, Simmons Library. bealweb.simmons.edu/collectinguides/ManuscriptsCollection/MS064.html.
- ↑ ^[i] "The Little Seed." *Stepping Stones to Literature: A Third Reader*, by Sarah Louise Arnold and Charles B. Gilbert, Silver, Burdett and Company, 1902, p. 62.

Kate Louise Brown



KATE LOUISE BROWN.

Born	May 8, 1857
Died	December 31, 1901
Residence	Massachusetts
Education	Reading High School, Bridgewater, Massachusetts
Occupation	Children's writer, children's educator
Notable work	<i>The Plant Baby and Its Friends</i> , <i>Little People</i> , <i>Alice and Tom</i> , "The Little Seed"
Style	Children's literature
Parent(s)	Edgar M. Brown and Mary T. Brown

THE LITTLE SEED.

*In the heart of a seed,
Buried deep, so deep,
A tiny, little plant
Lays fast asleep.*

*"Wake," said the sunshine,
"And creep to the light."
"Wake," said the sun
Of the sunrise's bright.*

*The little plant heard
And it rose to see
What the beautiful
Outside world might be.*

JULIA BROWN.

^[k] An excerpt of Brown's poem "The Little Seed" in a children's textbook, *Stepping Stones to Literature: A Third Reader*.

UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES

Nathan @LitScience1102 · Feb 9
Found some more leads thanks to Isabel Altamirano of the Georgia Tech library. It turns out that Mary Trimmer may have been a fake author piggybacking on the success of Sarah Trimmer... #1102kidsci #RJ



Rebekah Fitzsimmons
@DrFitzPhD

Replying to @LitScience1102

@salteri This seems like a really interesting possibility that we might want to chat about next week :)

12:46 PM - 9 Feb 2018

1 Like

tweetinfestin
@tweetinfestin

Follow

I just found a bunch of newspapers about the controversy of Sarah Lloyd being accused of adultery! Can this be the author that wrote about a women's domestic duties? Consider me shook #RJ #1102kidsci



5:14 PM - 9 Feb 2018

1 Like

Lauren Becknell @BecknellKidSci · Feb 6

So I found evidence of my author, a religious children's writer/teacher, BEING ARRESTED FOR STEALING A PURSE. WHAT #RJ #1102kidsci



3 Comments 1 Like

Lauren Becknell @BecknellKidSci · Feb 6

And in addition, turns out she used minted coins too and was arrested for that too! Kate what are you doing! I'm so confused! #RJ #1102kidsci

1 Comment 1 Like

Lauren Becknell @BecknellKidSci · Feb 6

I wish I could know if she had a rebellious phase in her early 20's, or just was wrongly accused! I can't find any information about her except her works and background. Not a single article about her being arrested. #RJ #1102kidsci


1 Comment 1 Like

Rebekah Fitzsimmons
@DrFitzPhD

Replying to @BecknellKidSci

I know as a prof I'm not supposed to have favorites, but I think this might be my favorite discovery to date to come out of this project! Can't wait to see what you have tomorrow!
#1102kidsci

“NO RESULTS” DOESN'T MEAN NO LEARNING

 **Jae Hee Lee Lee** @jaeheeleelee99 · Feb 12
Finishing up my research narrative and the Possibly Impossible Research Project! Feel super excited! I have made soooo much progress from where I began! I feel like my research skills have improved through this project!

#1102kidsci #RJ

1 1

 **Devika Dutt** @devika_1102 · Feb 12
Great to see this positivity about this project that I KNOW we were all struggling with lol

1

 **Jae Hee Lee Lee** @jaeheeleelee99 [Follow](#)

Replying to @devika_1102

Yes Indeed! we did struggle and that is what made this project so worth it!

#1102kidsci #RJ

10:04 PM - 12 Feb 2018

 **tweetinfeatin** @tweetinfeatin [Follow](#)

Advice to those embarking on this project in the future:

1. Put sources into MLA as you go
2. Get started early
3. Use ideas from friends (team work makes the dream work)
4. Dont give up hope - last minute break throughs do happen
5. Ask the librarians for help!

#RJ #1102kidsci

7:57 PM - 12 Feb 2018

DIGITAL STUDENT COLLABORATION (AND COMMISERATION)



Bailey McLain @bmclain1102 · Jan 29
If anyone has an author that was a British Woman Poet or wrote Children's Books in England, I found these two books incredibly helpful! #1102kidsci #RU

@bmclain1102 I ran across this paragraph in "Children's Books in England" about your author, Mary Hughes. Hope this helps! #1102kidsci #RU

A more prolific writer, long popular, though not always identified with her works, because they were often anonymous, was Mary Robinson, afterwards Hughes (or Hughis, both spellings appear). Only by a comparison of a number of title-pages and advertisements it is possible to ascribe certainly to her many well-known books of 1811 to 1812. Two volumes of *Ann Mary's Tale* (the ... *Girl*, 1811); and 'See ... *Best*', 1812); *The Ornaments Discovered* (1811); *The Alchemist* (1811); and *The Ophian Girl* (1812) are a few of them. She dedicated some to Miss Edgeworth, whose moral pattern she followed with some fidelity, but with very scant success. I believe that so far as so many accounts' books go, she compiled them by request, certainly with success. She wrote several juvenile pamphlets for the Christian Tract Society (founded in 1807) and in 1811 was made a life member of that unimpeachable body. Her works - like Mrs Barbauld's - appear in its lists and in those of several Unitarian associations. In 1811, a year after her marriage, she emigrated to the States with her husband, and, finding that the popularity of her books had procured her, 'commenced a school for young ladies' at Philadelphia, which she conducted with wide success all her remaining life (1812). A brief record of her life, written in the best Victorian style of field-companions, appeared in Sarah Josepha Hale's *Woman's Record* (1815).

Mrs Trimmer was of the full Establishment in religious views, Mary Robinson either non-committal or Unitarian; and Priscilla Wakefield, whose maiden name was Bell, was a Quaker, and of strong character at that, as an engraved portrait by Wagnman, the theatrical artist, suggests. She wrote a *Journal* or *Notes* of the children's books between about 1797 and 1820, and also *Reflections on the Present Condition of the Female Sex* (J. Johnson 1798). Her *Introduction to*

Nathan @LitScience1102
Following

Replying to @bmclain1102 @bmclain1102
Hey! My author is Mary Trimmer and it looks like she may be talked about near the bottom of the page. Can you send me more info on



Rebekah Fitzsimmons @DrFitzPhD · Jan 30
This spirit of collaboration is making me so proud of you all! #1102kidsci

DIGITAL COLLABORATION WITH OUTSIDE EXPERTS

 **Bethel Mamo**
@bethelkidscl Follow

@MadameGillflurt Hi! I'm a student doing research on Elizabeth Helme and I saw a tweet from you last year saying you knew a bit of information about her. Would you mind helping me with my research?

9:24 PM - 25 Jan 2018

1


 Tweet your reply

 **Catherine Curzon** @MadameGillflurt · Jan 26
Replying to @bethelkidscl

"A bit" is right; drop me a message via my contact page at madamegillflurt.com and tell me more! :)

 **A Covent Garden Gillflurt's Guide to Life**
Glorious Georgian dispatches from the long 18th century...
madamegillflurt.com

   1 

 **Karin Westbrook** @WestbrookKarin · Feb 6
I got a response from @PopSci!!!
#1102kidscl #RJ





11:12 AM [View details](#)


Hi, Karin,

I'm Eleanor and I'm an editorial assistant at *Popular Science*. I wanted to write back and your for your note about Eliza Ann Youmans.

We were literally just talking about her in the office yesterday afternoon and speculating about whether there were archives or information that would indicate the extent of her contributions to the magazine. I don't know the answer to these questions, but the uncanny timing of your message clearly means we have to track this down.


3

   3 

 **Karen Viars**
@karenaviars Following

Replying to @WestbrookKarin @PopSci

#1102kidscl



6:05 PM - 6 Feb 2018

ASKING FOR HELP IS NOT A SIGN OF FAILURE

[This project] opened up a new side of research that I had never really explored – it is okay to reach out to authorities on a given subject to ask for help and to be pointed in the right direction. . . . I had struck a goldmine by reaching out to the museums and archives, and even when they had no physical resources for me, they had pointed me in the right direction. If reaching out to professors or archivists for information was not one of the few suggested options for the project, I would probably never have found as much information than I actually had.

Student Zong-Rui Wee, final reflective portfolio



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

DR. REBEKAH FITZSIMMONS

@DrFitzPhd

Rebekah.Fitzsimmons@lmc.gatech.edu

Presentation And Materials Available At Rebekahfitzsimmons.Wordpress.Com/Current-research

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