

# Handout on Children's Book Trailers

By author Jennifer Phillips

## Production Resources

Examples of online sites where you can purchase stock music footage:

- [www.productiontrax.com](http://www.productiontrax.com)
- [www.stockmusic.com](http://www.stockmusic.com)
- [www.neosounds.com](http://www.neosounds.com)

Examples of sites for archival footage and pictures:

- [www.criticalpast.com](http://www.criticalpast.com)
- [www.britishpathe.com](http://www.britishpathe.com)
- Library of Congress at [www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html](http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html)
- [www.fotosearch.com](http://www.fotosearch.com)
- Flickr Creative Commons at [www.flickr.com/creativecommons](http://www.flickr.com/creativecommons) (includes Getty Images, U.S. Government Works and images from Flickr users made available with no or some restrictions)

Other:

- Creative Commons Search at <https://creativecommons.org/> allows you to search different engines by keyword for public domain "some rights reserved" photos, clip art, videos or music
- [https://ads.youtube.com/keyword\\_tool](https://ads.youtube.com/keyword_tool) for help on tagging your trailers on YouTube

## Consideration For Children's Authors

Postings on education websites indicates that some teachers are using trailers to:

- Create anticipation for kids reading a new book
- Provide a clear model of summarizing and other literary techniques (cliffhangers, foreshadowing, mood, pacing, tone)
- Provide an alternative way to know the general storyline.
- Build critical thinking skills by dissecting the trailer compared to the book and how the trailer was effective or not.
- Replace a traditional book report by having kids make their own book trailers.

Websites to check out:

- <http://www.booktrailersforreaders.com/Home+Student+Book+Trailers> book trailers made by students (great way to understand our readers' perspectives!)
- <http://www.slimekids.com/book-trailers/> extensive collection of trailers for children's books
- [www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/65-book-videos-build-excitement-summer-reading](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/65-book-videos-build-excitement-summer-reading) features several book trailers and the page is cited by educators as a good place to go.
- <http://teachwithpicturebooks.blogspot.com/search/label/book%20trailer> is a great blog overall

and includes interesting insights about use of book trailers.

- 60 Second Recap [www.60secondrecap.com](http://www.60secondrecap.com) doesn't have book trailers but has fun "recaps" in text or short video clips by the web site's host about high school classics; a great prompt to think about how you'd recap your own book.

### Sampling of Book Trailers with Different Approaches to Stimulate Your Thinking

- Karen Abbott's *American Rose*. (peppy music and visuals convey a sense of the era and story) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Equ\\_zpXOa1s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Equ_zpXOa1s)
- Sid Jacobson's *Animation of Anne Frank, The Graphic Biography*. (visuals from the book highlight key elements of the story, sure to grab younger readers' interest) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLSvdEUA2wI>
- Denise Kiernan and Joseph D'Agnese's *Signing Their Lives Away*. (turns the typical treatment of history on its head, quirky, weird and reels you in) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVD0x0qedcl>
- Philip B. Kunhardt III's *Lincoln, Life-Size*. (great example of author interview that's engaging by telling interesting back story behind the book; author comes across relaxed & knowledgeable) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJhTBmj-plo>
- Eric Metaxas's *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*. (combines stills, film snippets, serious music and voice-over to tell a short version of the story) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9M3pm6-rVOQ>
- Darcy Pattison's *Prairie Storms* (children's non-fiction but interesting use of four different trailers for same book)

The Bison v. Woman Skating Contest. <http://youtu.be/oRIe8t3dHLS>

Sounds of Prairie Animals: We know that a Cow says, "Moo!" But what does a Skunk say? Watch and find out. <http://youtu.be/uaUirE0ed6Y>

A Chant of Months: Prairie Storms. Great chant to teach the weather in each month. <http://youtu.be/M8AfzGptb50>

What is a Rainbow? Prairie Storms Explained by 22 Young Scientists. Kids talk about all things arched. <http://youtu.be/JcRGHYi9CGc>

- Randy Schmidt's *Little Girl Blue: The Life of Karen Carpenter*. (very simple treatment using core visuals from the book and text slides) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Doxohh-QMIA>