



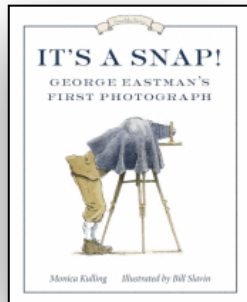
Cruchley's Collection

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.



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It's a Snap



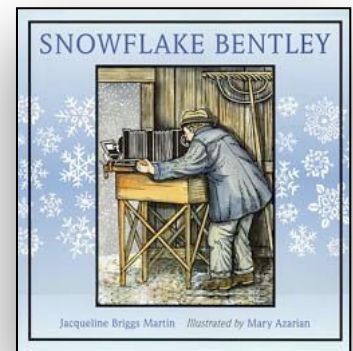
Monica Kulling, Tundra Books, ©2009, 978-0-99776-881-1

In 1877, George Eastman started what was then the complicated hobby of photography. He decided to invent a camera that would make it possible for everyone to take pictures - the Brownie. And today we can take pictures with our phones.

Teaching Ideas

Related Books

Snowflake Bentley, by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, is the story of a farm boy with a photography hobby who found a way to take pictures of single beautiful snowflakes - before they melt. There are teaching ideas for this book at diana.cruchley.com



Title: **It's a Snap!**

This is a good time to introduce the pun - when a word with two different meanings is used for humorous purposes. Discuss the title of the book in this context:

- An expression "It's a Snap" meaning it's easy.
- The photography connection in that a "snap" is short for "snapshot" - a quickly taken picture.

Writing from a Photo

Select a dozen photos for the class, and allow students to choose the one that inspires them to write. Amusing, historic, dangerous, photoshopped, or real – all they have to be is interesting. Have them ask themselves a series of questions:



1. What is happening in the picture?
 2. Is this a real picture?
 3. Where is it taking place?
 4. Why do you think the photographer created this picture?
 5. Who/ what is in the picture?
- Description - what do they look like, what are they wearing?

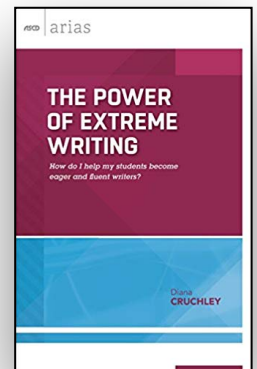
6. Sensory details - touch, sound, smell, etc.

Then they use their details to create a “what happened before this”, “what is happening now” and “what will happen next” anecdote.

Extreme Writing

Always present three possible topics for Extreme Writing so that students will have a choice. My book, **The Power of Extreme Writing** is available at ASCD for a complete explanation of this unique approach to journaling.

- Photography and me. Maybe you take pictures, or there are lots of pictures of you. Talk about photographic moments.
- George Eastman was fond of making lists. Make a list of something like your favourite foods (with a note on each of them. When you get it, where you eat it, and so on.)
- Photography was George Eastman’s hobby. What hobbies do you have or would like to have? Talk about what it is and why you like it, or would like it.



Making Up a Joke

Many jokes depend on a pun. Ask students to imagine they are making up mummy jokes. Give them words like *wrap*, *unwind*, *mummy*; and ask them to think of the multiple meanings that could make a good joke.

1. What does the mummy director say at the end of filming the movie? *It's a wrap.*
2. What is a mummy's favourite food? *A wrap.*
3. What does a mummy get if she's feeling cold? *A wrap.*
4. What kind of music is a mummy's favourite? *Wrap music.*
5. What is the most important day of the year? *Mummy's Day.*
6. Why don't mummy's have hobbies? *They are too wrapped up in their work.*
7. What does a mummy do at the beach? *Unwind. etc.*

Taking a Good Photo

Students can learn some of the basics of good photography. They can practise improving photos by cropping magazine and newspaper photographs. When so many cameras are now available in schools, students can practise taking good photographs, as well. (The first two tips in italics are also mentioned at the back of the book.)

1. *Frame your shot - look at what is behind the person. Why take their picture in front of a garbage can, or where it will look like a post is growing out of their head?*
2. *Almost always you can move closer and get a better shot.*
3. Avoid clutter in the picture – a clean single image is best.
4. No more than 3 people in the picture – unless it's a crowd shot where you don't want to see individuals.
5. Keep the sun behind you, so that it falls directly on the subject.
6. Fluffy or dramatic clouds always look good in the background of a picture.

Kodachrome

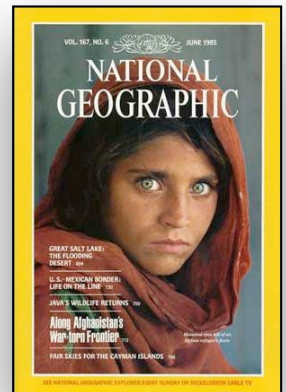
In 1976, Kodak had 95% of the market for film. Kodachrome film was the standard of photography, although kodachrome discontinued production in 2010 after over 75 years because there are fewer pictures now that are developed.

Paul Simon's song, **Kodachrome** (below), has a chorus that celebrates photography.

Kodachrome

You give us those nice bright colours
You give us the green of summer
Makes you think all the world's a sunny day
Oh yea!
I got a Nikon camera
I love to take a photograph
Mama, don't take my Kodachrome away

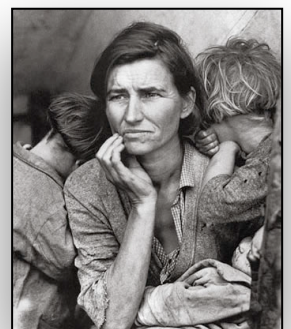
Students might be interested in writing their own 9-line poem celebrating or making fun of taking photos in their life, or being photographed. First brainstorm words and phrases related to photography such as: *snap, smile, say cheese, hold that pose, be natural, camera, capture, i-phone, flash, pic, paparazzi, focus, selfie, lens, enlarge, digital, zoom, or edit.*



Afghan Girl
Kodachrome 1985

More Ideas for Photography

Dorothea Lange: *The Photographer Who Found the Faces of the Depression* is a picture book at dianacruchley.com with many more teaching ideas for studying photography with students.



Dorothea Lange
Migrant Mother
Kodachrome 1936