

Annie B.,

MADE FOR

TV

STEM

Book Club

PROGRAMMING

ANNIE B., MADE FOR TV: STEM BOOK CLUB PROGRAMS

PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

In the chapter book **Annie B., Made for TV** by Amy Dixon (Running Press Kids), Annie B. is a “wrinventor,” a writer and inventor, who thinks up new inventions and then writes up commercials for them. Invite your readers or book club members to:

- Explore inventions and inventors from books in your collection and online resources.
- Make some of Annie B.’s fictional inventions with real hands-on STEM activities.

Look for additional ideas in the Language Arts & STEM Lesson Plans available by searching “Annie B” at CuriousCityDPW.com.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Annie B., Made for TV

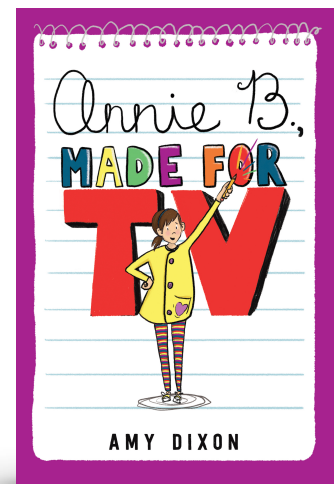
By Amy Dixon

Published by Running Press Book Publishers

ISBN-13: 9780762463855

Age Range: 8 - 12 Years

Eleven-year-old Annie Brown is used to being on the losing end of comparisons to her almost-always best friend Savannah. Savannah is MVP of the track team, has straight As, and, predictably, wins the most coveted school spirit award on the last day of 5th grade. Fortunately, Annie does have one very specialized skill.



Inspired by As Seen on TV commercials, Annie likes to invent products and write clever sales pitches to go along with them. So when an opportunity arises to audition for a local web show called The Cat’s Meow, Annie knows her future is set. She’s going to wow those producers with her fabulous writing and made-for-TV announcer voice. Of course, things don’t happen quite according to plan, and soon Annie is worried about losing both the opportunity she’s been training for her whole life, and her best friend.

BOOK REVIEWS

“Dealing with themes of self-acceptance and jealousy, Dixon’s story keeps the drama firmly in the middle grade range....A light and humorous story that will be best received by younger middle grade readers seeking gentler fare than **The Dork Diaries**.

—*School Library Journal*

“Annie’s first-person narration is hilariously astute...Readers graduating from **Junie B.** to lengthier stories will find a new book-friend in Annie B.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amy Dixon is the author of the picture books **Marathon Mouse**, **Sophie's Animal Parade**, and **Maurice the Unbeastly**. She writes from her home in Clovis, California, where she lives on a steady diet of popcorn and coffee. This is her debut middle grade novel.

EXPLORE INVENTIONS & INVENTORS

Annie Brown loves to invent things and write commercials for them. Her father says that she is a “wrinventor. A writer-inventor.” She pays attention to the world around her and makes up inventions to solve problems that she notices. Most inventors have done the same thing over the centuries.

Books About Inventors:

- **100 Inventions That Made History (100 in History)** by DK Publishing
- **Ada Twist, Scientist** by Andrea Beatty
- **Balloons over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade** by Melissa Sweet
- **The Boo-Boos That Changed the World: A True Story About an Accidental Invention (Really!)** by Barry Wittenstein
- **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind** by William Kamkwamba
- **DK Eyewitness Books: Invention** by Lionel Bender
- **If I Built a Car** by Chris Van Dusen
- **If I Built a House** by Chris Van Dusen
- **Iggy Peck, Architect** by Andrea Beatty
- **Inventions: A Visual Encyclopedia** by DK (in partnership with the Smithsonian)
- **Iqbal and His Ingenious Idea: How a Science Project Helps One Family and the Planet (CitizenKid)** by Elizabeth Suneby
- **It's a Snap! George Eastman's First Photograph** by Monica Kulling
- **The Marvelous Thing that came from a Spring: The Accidental Invention of the Toy That Swept the Nation** by Gilbert Ford
- **Mistakes that Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions & How They Came to Be** by Charlotte Foltz Jones and John O'Brien
- **The Most Magnificent Thing** by Ashley Spires
- **Neo Leo: The Ageless Ideas of Leonardo da Vinci** by Gene Barretta
- **Now & Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin** by Gene Barretta
- **Rosie Revere, Engineer** by Andrea Beatty
- **So You Want to Be an Inventor?** by Judith St. George and David Small
- **Timeless Thomas: How Thomas Edison Changed Our Lives** by Gene Barretta
- **Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions** by Chris Barton

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Websites for Further Research:

- Biographyonline.net
- FactMonster
- ScienceNetLinks.com
- Encyclopedia Britannica Quiz
- Historyplex.com
- Library of Congress - Benjamin Franklin
- Library of Congress - Flight and Early Aviators
- Library of Congress - Leonardo's Workshop
- Library of Congress - With Wings as Eagles
- Library of Congress - Inventive Wright Brothers

Reading Passages from ReadWorks.org:

- [Inventions That Changed the World](#)
- [Ideas the Pop](#)
- [Who Invented the Popsicle?](#)
- [Great Ideas!](#)
- [A New Tail](#)
- [Steps to Inventing](#)
- [Inventions Then and Now](#)
- [Inventions of the Future](#)
- [Daily Life Inventions](#)
- [Telephones: Then and Now](#)
- [A Perfectly Sticky Idea](#)
- [Who Invented Earmuffs?](#)
- [A Brush with History](#)
- [When Television Became Colorful](#)



HANDS-ON STEM ACTIVITIES

Smell Smasher

Annie invents scented accessories for when one is around things or places that have an unpleasant odor.

Create your own scratch and sniff stickers using one of the following methods:

- <https://damasklove.com/diy-printable-scratch-and-sniff-stickers/>
Materials: heat gun, embossing powder, and sugar-free Jello mix
- <http://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/diy-3-ingredient-scratch-sniff-paint/>
Materials: school glue and Jello mix
- <https://www.thecountrychiccottage.net/make-your-own-scratch-and-sniff-stickers/>
Materials: essential oils

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Feelings Folder

Annie invents color coded folders to let others know your mood at just a glance.

- Create your own mood ring: <https://www.buzzle.com/articles/how-to-make-mood-rings.html> -
Materials: ring base, craft glue, and thermochromic stone
- Create mood ring color change slime:
<https://www.thoughtco.com/color-changing-slime-recipe-609157>
Materials: school glue, thermochromic pigment, and liquid starch

Hue Guru

Annie invents a machine that creates and names new colors.

<http://www.colourlovers.com/colors/add> - “Name a Color, Create a Palette, Design a Pattern”

Fish Light

Annie invents a tankless, waterless aquarium to hang on your wall.

<https://ideastand.com/diy-night-light-ideas-for-kids/>

KidzHouse

Annie invents a dollhouse big enough for kids to play inside.

<https://www.handmadecharlotte.com/6-ways-make-cardboard-dollhouse/>

PROGRAMMING CREATOR

Suzanne Costner is a library media specialist and STEM coordinator in an elementary school. Before finding her perfect home in the library, she taught in other classrooms for 20 years. She loves everything about children’s and young adult literature, often reviewing books on her blog or for *School Library Journal*. Suzanne is also a science geek who enjoys building rockets and programming robots with her students. She has won many awards for the STEM program, and in 2017 she was named Tech Innovator Teacher of the Year for her school district and the C.A.P. National Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year.