# Author Birthday (2/13)

**Grade Level:** K-3  
**Subject:** Simms Taback  
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## Overview & Purpose

**Author Study**

Download the author study kit at Reading Rockets:
http://www.readingrockets.org/content/pdfs/authortoolkit_rr.pdf

**Notes:**
NGSSS:
LA.K.1.7.2, LA.1.1.7.2, LA.2.1.7.2, LA.3.1.7.2

## Teacher/Student Guide

| Objectives | Content Purpose: Learn the author’s purpose in writing this book.  
Language Purpose: Use the term “cumulative” and “sequencing” when discussing the book. A cumulative story keeps repeating itself but changes or adds one thing each time it goes along  
Social Goal: Make sure that when we work in small or large group, we all honor each other’s participation. |
|---|---|
| **Lesson Procedure** | Show the students the video version of another “cumulative” tale by Simms; There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=altckbVlceM  
Note how it fits the definition of a cumulative tale. See above.  
Read the book This is the House that Jack Built to the students modeling sequencing skills.  
**Modeling:** example: “Let’s see what’s in this house so far – there’s some cheese, but the rat ate that. Then the cat killed the rat. Then the dog scared away the cat. I think I see a pattern here – something is in the house, and then something else gets it out of the house. I hope I can remember all of these things… Let’s think back… first the rat, then the cat, then the dog, and the dog was chased by the cow, and the girl milked the cow. With all of these things going on, it’s a good idea to look backwards in my book to remind myself.”  
**Guided Instruction:** Together chart the characters as they appear in the story. Ask: Can anyone name, in order, what are the things that are in the house that Jack built? This is called sequencing. We are remembering the things that happened in the story – in the order that they happen.” |
| **Activity** | Collaboration  
A fun way to remember the story is by using visuals and text, a Rebus. Write out the main part of the story on a chart for the students to copy. Have them work together illustrating the main characters and substituting the illustrations for the words.  
**This is the house that Jack built.**  
Independent: Have students go to the Enchanted Learning site online to work with a rebus on any topic they choose. http://www.enchantedlearning.com/rhymes/topics/animals.shtml |
| **Background information on the author** | Biography http://www.simmstaback.com/About_Simms_Taback_-_Biography.html  
Interview with Author http://www.simmstaback.com/About_Simms_Taback_-_Interview.html  
Review of his book that offers insight in how it was written; labeling the cow, labeling a variety of cheeses and where the author himself makes a surprise appearance! http://www.simmstaback.com/Simms_Taback_Books_-_This_Is_The_House_That_Jack_Built.html |
| **Materials Needed** | Other Books by Simms  
Safari: Reading Rainbow’s Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain, a pattern book set in Africa. |

## Other Resources

(e.g. Web, books, etc.)