

## **S is for Sunflower: A Kansas Alphabet**

Written by Devin and Corey Scillian

Illustrated by Doug Bowles

Sleeping Bear Press 2004

Chelsea, MI

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**Synopsis:** This delightful book is an alphabetical celebration of Kansas. Each letter portrays some historical and/or current information about the state. The writers give a poetic description (rhyming couplets) and then a more detailed prose interpretation of the information. It is amazing how this format includes so many details and facts. The book has everything from railroads, abolitionists, Kansas City jazz, Martina McBride, and a Kansas zephyr. The illustrations are exciting and colorful. The details in the drawings help to bring even more information to the text.

### **Themes:**

1. This book could be used for a Kansas theme with emphasis on geography, history, biography, music, the arts or even focus on the symbols of our state.
2. It could be used for a study on poetry.
3. It can be used for a theme on alphabetically written books.

### **Author Information:**

Written by Devin and Corey Scillian

The Scillians lives in Michigan now but both grew up in Kansas and consider themselves to be Jayhawks. Devin is from Ft. Riley and Corey was born and raised in Junction City, Kansas. Devin also wrote A is for America and is a news anchor for NBC in Detroit.

More information may be found at <http://devinscillian.com>.

Illustrated by Doug Bowles

Doug is a freelance illustrator and lives in Leawood, Kansas.

E-mail: [dbowles@earthlink.net](mailto:dbowles@earthlink.net)

### **Activities:**

Use the poetry of the text for Reader's Theater. (Rdg. St1 B2)

Create a Kansas Showcase and have students write their own text and/or illustrations for each letter using ideas about Kansas that are familiar to them. (Writing St. 3 B 6)

Celebrate Kansas Day by having a special speaker share the book with students.  
(Lit St1 B 2)

Assign students to research additional items about Kansas that were not included in the book and present their data to the class or to their reading buddies. (Research St 4 B 1)

The Kansas State Historical Society also has lots of resource materials.  
<http://www.kshs.org>

The Kansas Wheat Commission can be accessed for additional information.  
<http://www.kswheat.com>

For more information check out [www.accesskansas.org](http://www.accesskansas.org). You can visit historical sites, obtain government information, view a photo gallery, and even check the weather in your favorite Kansas town.

Questions:

The book concludes with its own fifteen questions called “A Breadbasket Full of Kansas Facts.” The answers are included for the reader to check their responses on another page.