IGGY PECK, ARCHITECT
Written by Andrea Beaty

Some kids sculpt sand castles, some make mud pies, some construct great block towers. But none are better at building than Iggy Peck, who once erected a life-sized replica of the Great Sphinx on his front lawn! It’s too bad that few people appreciate Iggy’s talent—certainly not his second grade teacher, Miss Lila Greer. It looks as if Iggy will have to trade in his T square for a box of crayons...until a fateful trip proves just how useful a master builder can be.

“Youthful irreverence and creativity find a champion in Iggy Peck.”
—Publisher's Weekly

★ Time’s Magazine’s Top Ten Children’s Books of 2007
★ Parent’s Choice Silver Honor 2007

FUN ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

MATH AND SCIENCE

Play with your food! Iggy often plays with his food: he builds churches and chapels from peaches and apples, and a replica of the St. Louis arch made of pancakes. Draw a picture of a structure made from food. You can use as many different kinds of food as you wish. Label your drawing.

Be like Iggy! Build models or structures using gumdrops, marshmallows, or frozen peas held together with toothpicks or broken strands of spaghetti. Construct houses or buildings using graham crackers for boards and frosting for cement. Have a Lego® building contest with prizes for: tallest, most symmetrical, most creative, most colorful, most realistic, etc. Figure out an award for every structure in the contest.

Compare: Use different kinds of building blocks (small colored wooden blocks, foam blocks, cardboard bricks, unit blocks, etc.) to figure out the best way to make a stable tall structure and the best way to make a strong structure.

Build bridges: Using “found” materials from your classroom including paper, string, and writing utensils and anything else besides regular building objects such as blocks, work in teams to see who can build the longest bridge between two desks. Test it with weights or toy cars.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Word Study: Architects design and plan buildings and structures. What do these architecture words from IGGY PECK, ARCHITECT mean? What words do they rhyme with? Build, model, replica, story, suspension, trestle

Fun fact: The word “skyscraper” was first used in the late 1800’s to describe the new, 10-20 story tall buildings that were just starting to be built. Today, skyscrapers are much taller. There are up to 100 or more stories in the world’s tallest buildings! “Skyscraper” is a fanciful way to describe buildings so tall, people believed they might actually touch the sky. Make up your own fanciful words to describe these items as people from the 1800’s might view them: cell phone, vacuum, electric coffee pot, laptop computer, money machine (ATM), automated car wash.

Writers’ Workshop: Iggy’s dream is to build. Write a few paragraphs explaining your own dream job. Why do you think this would be a good job for you? What do you have to learn to be good at this job? Who can help you?

CREATIVE ART

The illustrations in IGGY PECK, ARCHITECT have lots of texture. Gather objects with texture: leaves, toys, anything with a surface that is not smooth. Place white paper on top of the object and color with a crayon. Do this with different textures and colors, then cut shapes from the colored paper to make IGGY collages.