



Featured Teacher: Charisse Padilla

"Studenttreasures truly allowed an amazing experience for our classroom. Our book was a beautiful keepsake not only for our families but for our school as well. Thank you, Studenttreasures."

Cast of Characters:

Third-grade students in Newport Beach, CA.

Background and Setting:

Padilla has been a teacher for eight years. Her class created their book, *We Loved Because He First Loved Us*.

Memorable Learning:

"We started writing in the winter, and the growth I saw through the process and the final days of writing was so exciting!"



"Students worked together to come up with creative moments in their story."

Ready, Set, Share

Padilla encouraged her students to share their stories through publishing. As a teacher at a Christian school, Padilla has her class write about their testimony and salvation. "We created the book in May. Our subject was about the students living in a Christmas tree. We had two stories per student. They wrote in the winter and we published in spring!"

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

Padilla highlighted the importance of creativity throughout the students' publishing journey. One way she helped spark her students' imagination is through teamwork.

"We truly enjoyed the process: the rough drafts, creative thoughts and exciting moments while creating characters. Students worked together to help come up with creative moments in their story. The excitement was amazing!"

Making Leaps and Bounds

"I had a student here who specifically did not like writing—more so did not like getting creative in their thoughts. In the first steps, this student wrote maybe four sentences, couldn't come up with a character and couldn't envision the storyline. It truly took many, many rough drafts, outlines, conversations and thoughts."

Padilla worked with her student and recalled the moment something changed. "One day it clicked. He had a name and once he got it he wanted to take his story and continue writing at recess. He wrote two pages, it was an incredible story with characters, a timeline and a great ending."

This student is just one example; Padilla is excited to share just how much publishing helped all of her students grow as writers.



“These 20 students of mine worked on their penmanship and used words they looked up to make the story more colorful. They dove into their creative thoughts, coming up with addresses and names of characters. They also showed a sense of pride when they shared their very special moments of salvation. We started writing in the winter, and the growth I saw through the process and the final days of writing was so exciting!”

The Big Day

Padilla went all out to make the moment of receiving their classbook unforgettable for her students.

“We made a video of me dropping off the book to UPS... the students were incredibly excited about it. They waited patiently as I tracked the book’s arrival day. When it arrived, I videoed the UPS man dropping it off. Then I decorated the classroom with a large sign that read ‘published authors,’ and lots of confetti. Finally, my students walked down the red carpet to get their published classbook.”

The Road to Success

From her own experience, Padilla encourages teachers to go beyond just an assignment and create a meaningful, celebratory process for the students. “My advice would be to make this project theirs—give them encouragement, allow imagination and take your time. Don’t rush the students because then it becomes just another assignment. Have them be so proud of their work that they want to keep the rough drafts. Celebrate the big accomplishment for your students and go BIG when the book arrives. It was the best experience!”

Padilla’s excitement extended beyond her classroom, as she involved parents and even her principal in celebrating the students’ success. “Surprise the parents when you send out order forms because they get so excited. Each parent ordered at least one copy and we had some who donated! My principal even purchased a copy—it was a big deal!”



Scan to read more
Featured Teacher stories!



[Studenttreasures.com/FeaturedTeachers](https://www.studenttreasures.com/FeaturedTeachers)