



## Featured Teacher: Edith Hernandez

*"Do it! The finished product is rewarding for you as a teacher and for the students in the classroom."*

### Cast of Characters:

Kindergarten students in Weslaco, TX.

### Background and Setting:

Hernandez has been a teacher for 15 years. Her class created a book about where they see themselves as adults. She has 22 students in her class, many of which are bilingual.

### Memorable Learning:

*"We chose the title *When I Grow Up (Kinder Edition)*, because I explained to the students that they will look back at this book once they grow up and see if their plans changed."*



**"Creating a classbook will help increase your students' confidence and will give them the boost they need in their academics."**

### When I Grow Up

Hernandez's class was able to use their experience from career day to create a spectacular book they could look back on.

"The subject of the classbook was when I grow up and is filled with 22 kindergarteners' ideas of what they want to be when they grow up. We started brainstorming right after our campus held career day."

### The Future Is Bright!

The publishing process was cherished by Hernandez and her class.

"My students definitely enjoyed the process. They were excited to draw what they wanted to be when they grew up, to get the book and show their parents their page."

She explained what inspired the classbook topic.

"We used career day as a chance to start brainstorming what the students wanted to be when they grew up."

The career day lead to their classbook title and topic.

*"We chose the title, *When I Grow Up (Kinder Edition)*, because I explained to the students that they will look back at this book once they grow up and see if their plans had changed."*

### Meeting Student Needs

Hernandez discussed the challenges her students faced during the writing process.

"My bilingual students were the ones who struggled with creative writing due to the language barrier, but with support, the students were able to successfully create their classbook. My kinder students really took on the challenge to succeed no matter the obstacles."

Hernandez was able to meet the needs of her students, as many of them struggled to think of careers they could have. Career day guided her students to visualize what their future could look like.



## Confidence Is Key

Hernandez explained how publishing made her class feel confident in their writing.

"This classbook helped build my students' confidence in writing. It helped those students who struggle in reading and writing feel proud of themselves. To know that their work was going to be published in a book was so exciting for them. My bilingual students enjoyed being able to write a book despite their language barriers."

## Excitement in the Air!

How Hernandez's students reacted to becoming authors is a moment she'll never forget.

"They were so excited when we received the box and when we opened it. My class was super excited to be published authors."

Her class concluded their publishing journey with the perfect celebration.

"For the last months of school, all they talked about was their classbook. We ended their moment with a published author red-carpet celebration."

## Advice to Teachers

Hernandez loved publishing and encourages other teachers to include it in their classroom!

"Do it! The finished product is rewarding for you as a teacher and for the students in the classroom. Creating a classbook will help increase your students' confidence and will give them the boost they need in their academics."



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