



Featured Teacher: Nikki Warren

"This experience will be a forever memory for them."

Cast of Characters:

Third-grade students in North Carolina.

Background and Setting:

Warren has taught third graders for 30 years and is a big fan of creating proud authors.

Memorable Learning:

"This moment was definitely a teacher bucket-filler. Seeing all your hard work come to fruition was a fulfilling moment!"



"I have former students who are now grown adults and still bring up their published story when I see them!"

From Individual Stories to a Collaborative Classbook

Warren has explored different approaches to publishing with her class over the years.

"I have used Studenttreasures for many years. In the past, the students wrote their own individual books. This past year, we wrote a classbook. Each student wrote their own short story and had free reign to come up with their own topic. We titled our book, *Warren's Wonderful Writers*."

Fun Topics Inspire Students to Write

Warren has perfected her step-by-step writing technique.

"The students loved the writing process. We first discussed coming up with a topic they were interested in, whether it be sports, animals, music or something else. It's more fun to write about a topic that you are interested in!"

After choosing their topic, Warren's class started writing and illustrating.

"The students wrote a rough draft, did peer editing, had teacher conferences and rewrote their final story on the publishing pages. Finally, the cherry on top: the illustration!"

Writing Skills in Action

With years of experience, Warren has learned a lot about the publishing process. She was excited to explain every step she took with her class.

"A classbook is the perfect way to solidify all the writing skills I have taught throughout the school year. After teaching the students how to start a story with a great beginning, include a problem and solution, use elaborative detail, add suspense and craft an exciting ending, this project allows them to put all those skills together. The students are amazed at their ability, proud of their work and excited to share their stories with their peers and family!"



A Spark of Motivation

One of Warren's students stood out to her as she witnessed her blossom as a writer.

"At the beginning of the year, one of my student's writing assignments was sparse and lacked the enthusiasm that her other work displayed. When tasked with writing a story, she would often produce a few simple sentences that lacked descriptive language and depth. She found it hard to let her imagination flow and often said she had no ideas or didn't know what to write. But the thought of having her story published in a book put a spark in her. She rose to the occasion, worked incredibly hard and produced a story she was so proud of. Both her parents and I were beaming with pride!"

Pancakes and Short Stories

Warren held a publishing party for her class and recalls the build up to the event.

"The students were ecstatic to see the classbook! The excitement and pride on their faces was priceless. This moment was definitely a teacher bucket-filler. Seeing all the hard work come to fruition was a fulfilling moment! After the books arrived, we celebrated with a publishing party! The students got dressed up and read their short stories to a small group of parents and then we celebrated with a pancake breakfast."

Former Students Carry Fond Memories

A classbook is a keepsake that students will cherish forever. Warren recalled how her former students always bring up their classbook.

"It is worth it all to see the excitement and pride on the students' faces. Even with my largest class of 32 students, it was a meaningful experience. This experience will be a forever memory for them. I have former students who are now grown adults and *still* bring up their published story when I see them!"



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