



Featured Teacher: Adelyn Fiangkiao-Jones

"When they saw the actual book with their stories in it, they were so happy that other people could read their stories."

Cast of Characters

Ninth through twelfth-grade students in Dulce, NM.

Background and Setting

Fiangkiao-Jones has been teaching for ten years.

Memorable Learning

"Creating a classbook helped the students build their confidence in their writing and their skills in ELA."



"Creating a classbook can be a rewarding experience for both teachers and students."

Publishing with Purpose

In 2024, Fiangkiao-Jones guided her class through a writing activity to create a published classbook. Because her class was in the creative narrative unit at this time, they chose to focus on short stories tailored to children ages 8 to 15.

"They were given freedom to choose any topic that is suitable for children and to make sure there is a moral of the story," she explained.

"The students planned their characters, setting and plot of the stories."

While this activity was student-led, Fiangkiao-Jones helped each class member mold their stories by using imagination and descriptive language.

"It was challenging for them to write, but through scaffolded instruction, they were able to create a story of their own."

Turning Readers Into Writers

Before her students put pen to paper, Fiangkiao-Jones encouraged them to get inspiration from children's books, where they could explore how those authors incorporated themes, characters and settings into their book.

"After a week of reading and analysis, the students began their own writing—creating original short stories," Fiangkiao-Jones said.

The transition from reading to writing proved to be challenging for many of her students.

"The students struggled in creating the plot of their stories, and they had trouble visualizing it. They could not think of adjectives that they could use to make the story more creative and applicable for children."

But, through much student-teacher and peer collaboration, their pages came to life. Many talented students loved to draw and use online tools to create their story pictures.

"They learned to help each other to create beautiful images," Fiangkiao-Jones said.

Reluctant Writers, Remarkable Stories

For two students, writing didn't come easily. Known for their dislike of reading and writing tasks, the two often found themselves struggling with spelling, organizing their thoughts and forming coherent sentences.



“Despite these difficulties, they were determined to improve and create an interesting narrative story,” Fiangkiao-Jones shared. “After weeks of hard work, they crafted stories about young boys named Chris and Davey, who discover a hidden world beneath their school; a journey filled with challenges and adventures.”

Through their hard work and dedication, they were able to create a story that captured readers, with unexpected twists, unique characters and an engaging plot.

From Hesitation to Celebration

For these two students, seeing their stories in print was a transformative moment.

“Before the book was published, they were hesitant to share their work—even with classmates,” Fiangkiao-Jones recalled. “They felt their stories didn’t make sense or just weren’t good enough.”

But everything changed when the final copy of the classbook arrived, featuring their narratives alongside their peers’.

“When they saw their stories in the published book, they were absolutely thrilled,” she said. “They realized that not only could they write something meaningful, but that others—especially younger students in the elementary school—would be reading and learning from their stories.”

The experience marked a turning point, turning uncertainty into confidence and inspiring a newfound pride in their creative abilities.

A Blueprint to Classbook Success

Fiangkiao-Jones describes creating a classbook as a deeply rewarding experience for both teachers and students. Now, she is able to look back and share tips and tricks with other teachers wanting to publish a classbook.

To make the most of the experience, Fiangkiao-Jones believes teachers should plan ahead by ordering materials early and setting a clear timeline. She also suggests that engaging students through the brainstorming process and encouraging creativity creates a sense of ownership. Providing structure through templates and regular guidance helps keep students on track, and involving families through consistent communication and sharing purchase options builds community and fosters relationships.

Lastly, “Celebrate achievements by acknowledging each students’ contribution and effort throughout the project,” she shared. “Host a book launch party to unveil the finished classbook and celebrate the students’ hard work!”



Scan to read more
Featured Teacher stories!



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