



Featured Teacher: Marjorie Neeley

"It is a great tool to help with the [publishing] process."

Cast of Characters

Fourth, fifth and sixth-grade students
in Centerville, OH

Background and Setting

Neeley has been a teacher for 41 years.

Memorable Learning

"Give yourself plenty of time... So many learning experiences can come from this one [class activity]."



"My favorite part of Studenttreasures! Seeing their faces when they are holding their published books!"

An Extraordinary Cast

Since 2004, Neeley has turned her classes into #ProudAuthors! She teaches a unique, Montessori and multi-age classroom of fourth, fifth and sixth graders—giving her the joy of seeing her students grow as writers over several years. First publishing classbooks, now in Neeley's classroom, her students publish with our Individual Book Publishing Program, where each student writes and illustrates their own book.

Neeley said, "Most students write fictional pieces, and many like to write sequels or trilogies since I have the same student for multiple years."

Building Writing Skills

For Neeley, publishing isn't about creating a perfect book—it's about guiding students through every step of the publishing process and watching their confidence grow. She sees this class activity as a hands-on way to turn young writers into real authors.

"It is a great tool to help with the [publishing] process," she said. "Students are forming complete sentences, practicing verb tense[s], adding correct punctuation and learning about quotation marks."

To finalize their stories, her class utilizes story maps, in addition to teacher and peer editing to further enhance their writing skills. Finally, Neeley's class types their pages to grow their typing literacy.

Perseverance Through Publishing

Some of the most memorable classroom moments happen when students persevere and are able to see their own growth. One example of this experience is a student in Neeley's class from Africa, who arrived as an English Language Learner.

"We made his first book together. It was a simple children's book," Neeley said. "The next year, he wrote a sequel, but he did it himself."

Their journey proves that creativity and persistence can turn language barriers into stepping stones toward success.

Memorable Celebration

For Neeley's students, the publishing process is more than a class activity; it is a cherished memory fueled by community, learning and hardwork.

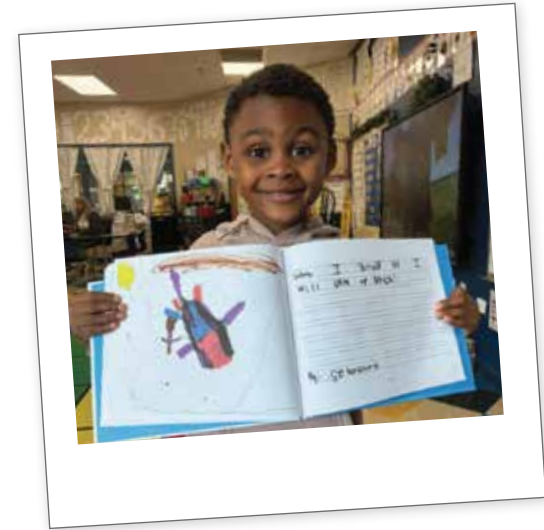
Neeley shared why she celebrates her class becoming published authors, "My favorite part of Studenttreasures is seeing their faces when they are holding their published book!"



Words of Wisdom

To teachers getting ready to publish, Neeley recommends giving yourself time to create the best book.

“Give the students time to work through the whole writing process from deciding a topic, to rough draft, to peer editing, then to the final draft,” said Neeley. “So many learning experiences can come from this one [class activity].”



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