



ALL FOR ONE

Finding
HER voice.



Q&A: JA Teacher Ms. Simmons

How does writing enhance a student's experience in your class?

I enjoy teaching students how to express themselves through their writing. It is challenging for students to put ideas in their own words. I like to encourage them to use interesting vocabulary and descriptive words. I also like to foster an accepting environment for the students to share their writing samples. This also gives them the opportunity to become more comfortable speaking in front of an audience- exhibiting inflection in their voice and presentation skills.

How does writing help students clarify their thoughts?

Writing gives us the opportunity to organize our thoughts. Writing encourages students to be reflective and connect their ideas. I believe completing a writing sample helps us to feel a sense of accomplishment.

How did it feel to have a student of yours write and publish a book while in your class?

I am incredibly proud of Sydney! I keep a copy of her book at my desk. I hope I inspire her- because she certainly inspires all of us! Sydney's accomplishment influenced other students to write books of their own.

What influence do you believe your class may have had on the writing of the book?

We do a great deal of writing in the Fifth Grade! The students have a 'Writer's Workshop' each Wednesday. They have their own Writing Folders, Composition Books and Interactive Journals. We also have a 'FAB Vocab' Word Wall. The students share interesting words that they feel are challenging and will enhance their writing skills. We have worked on several paragraphs/essays this year: Persuasive Essays, How-To Paragraphs, Narrative Essays and a recent Compare/Contrast Essay. I hope my love of writing is obvious with my students. One of my favorite aspects of teaching is listening to them share what they have written. I know Sydney will continue enjoying writing books. It was an honor for her JA teachers to be the recipients of her book dedication.