

Young Voices Classroom Publishing Program



PRINCIPAL INFORMATION PACKAGE

*FROM THEIR FIRST IDEA TO THEIR FIRST
PUBLISHED STORY*

*A 5-week creative writing and publishing experience
for Grade 5 classrooms.*





every student has a story worth telling

The Young Voices Classroom Publishing Program is a five-week creative writing experience designed to take Grade 5 students through the journey of becoming published authors.

Through four interactive classroom workshops, students develop an original story while learning how professional writers move from initial idea through drafting, revision, and final editing.

Following the completion of their stories, each student's work is professionally formatted and compiled into a published classroom anthology.

The program concludes with a fifth classroom visit, the Young Voices Author Celebration, where students see their published work for the first time and receive their own copy of the classroom anthology.

Every participating student receives:

- Four guided creative writing workshops
- A My Author Journey student workbook
- Hand-on writing and revision support
- Personalized feedback on their story
- Inclusion in their classroom's professionally published anthology
- Their own printed copy of the finished book
- A Young Voice Published Author Certificate
- Participation in the Young Voices Author Celebration

*THEY DON'T JUST COMPLETE A WRITING ASSIGNMENT. THEY BECOME
PUBLISHED AUTHORS.*

The 5-Week Author Journey

FROM AN IDEA TO A PUBLISHED STORY

WEEK 1: IMAGINE *EVERY GREAT STORY STARTS WITH AN IDEA*



Students explore where authors find inspiration and develop the foundation for their own original short story.

Students begin developing:

- Story ideas
- Characters
- Setting
- Conflict
- Resolution
- Beginning, middle, and end

Outcome: Each student leaves with a clear story concept and writing plan.

WEEK 2: CREATE *TURN AN IDEA INTO A STORY*



Students begin drafting while exploring age-appropriate storytelling techniques.

These techniques include:

- Strong openings
- Show vs. tell
- Sensory details
- Character emotions
- Dialogue
- Strong word choices

Outcome: Students develop their first complete draft.

WEEK 3: REVISE *GOOD WRITERS DON'T JUST WRITE, THEY REWRITE*



Students learn the difference between revision and editing and discover how feedback can make their stories stronger.

Students work with:

- Guided revision techniques
- Personalized feedback
- Peer feedback
- Adding, removing, moving, and replacing content
- Strengthening beginnings, scenes, and endings

Outcome: Students transform their first draft into a stronger second draft.

The 5-Week Author Journey

FROM AN IDEA TO A PUBLISHED STORY

WEEK 4: POLISH

PREPARE THE MANUSCRIPT FOR PUBLICATION



Students complete their final editing and learn what happens when writing moves from manuscript to published book.

Students work on:

Capitalization

Punctuation

Spelling

Paragraph structure

Dialogue formatting

Final story title

Author biography

Final manuscript submission

Outcome: Each student's finished manuscript is submitted for publication.

Young Voices professionally prepares the students' stories for publication, including proofreading, interior formatting, book design, and production of the classroom anthology.

WEEK 5: CELEBRATE

MEET YOUR NEWEST PUBLISHED AUTHORS



Meet your classroom's newest published authors. Young Voices returns to the classroom with the completed books for an Author Celebration.

Students:

- See their published anthology for the first time
- Receive their personal copy
- Receive a Published Author Certificate
- Have the opportunity to share from their story
- Participate in a classroom book signing
- Reflect on their journey as a writer

IMAGINE → CREATE → REVISE → POLISH → CELEBRATE

Educational Value: More Than A Published Book

The finished anthology is an exciting outcome, but the heart of the Young Voices is the learning that happens along the way.

The program is designed to strengthen students' skills and confidence in:

01 *Writing: Students experience the complete writing process rather than focusing solely on a finished assignment.*

02 *Revision: Students learn that strong writing develops through reflection, feedback, and purposeful revision.*

03 *Communication: Students practice expressing ideas clearly and considering how their words will be understood by a reader.*

04 *Creativity: Students are encouraged to develop original characters, worlds, conflicts, and ideas.*

05 *Confidence: Every student's voice is treated as worthy of being developed, shared, and celebrated.*

06 *Perserverance: Students experience what it means to take a project from an initial idea through multiple drafts to completion.*

07 *Authentic Learning: Knowing that their stories will become part of a real published book gives students an authentic audience and purpose for their writing.*



What The School Receives

DESIGNED TO BE EASY FOR TEACHERS

Young Voices provides the structure and resources required to guide the publishing project from beginning to end.

INCLUDED WITH THE PROGRAM:

- Four instructor-led classroom workshops
- Fifth-week Author Celebration
- My Author Journey Workbook for every student
- Instructor-led writing activities
- Student revision support
- Personalized writing feedback
- Teacher program guide
- Student publishing materials
- Final proofread
- Professional interior book formatting
- Classroom anthology cover design
- Publishing and print coordination
- One finished paperback for every participating student
- One finished paperback for the classroom teacher
- Published author certificates
- Classroom book delivery
- Opportunity for families to purchase additional copies

WHAT WE ASK OF TEACHERS:

Teachers remain an important part of the experience, but the program is designed to minimize additional workload.

TEACHERS HELP BY:

- Encouraging students to complete writing between sessions
- Providing appropriate classroom support
- Helping communicate program deadlines
- Coordinating required school/parent permissions
- Ensuring students are prepared for each weekly workshop

Young Voices manages the creative writing instruction, publishing process, and final book production.

PROGRAM DETAILS & INVESTMENT

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- Designed for: Grade 5 classrooms
- Program length: Five classroom visits plus book production time
- Instructional workshops: Four weekly sessions
- Workshop length: Approximately 60-90 minutes
- Final visit: Young Voices Author Celebration
- Class size: Up to 25 students*
- Published outcome: One professionally produced classroom anthology

PROGRAM INVESTMENT

\$2,495 per classroom

Includes up to 25 participating students and all program materials, instruction, publishing services, and books described in this package.

Additional students can be accommodated where appropriate.

ADDITIONAL FAMILY COPIES

Every participating student receives one book as part of the program.

Families who would like additional copies for parents, grandparents, or other family members will have the opportunity to purchase them separately.



PROGRAM DETAILS & INVESTMENT

FUNDING OPTIONS

Young Voices recognizes that school budgets vary. Programs may be funded through:

- School or classroom budgets
- Parent councils
- Literacy or enrichment funding
- Community grants
- Corporate classroom sponsorships
- Local business partnerships
- Shared funding models

INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAM, BUT FUNDING IS A BARRIER?

We encourage schools to contact us. Young Voices is actively developing community sponsorship opportunities designed to connect businesses with classrooms that would benefit from the program.

STORIES START HERE

Young Voices was created around a simple belief:

Young people deserve opportunities to discover that their ideas and their voices matter.

Through creative writing, revision, and publishing, Young Voices allows students to experience something many people don't accomplish until adulthood: seeing their own words professionally published in a book.

The Classroom Publishing Program combines creative writing education with real-world publishing to create an experience students can be proud of long after the program ends.

SAMANTHA LAYCOCK

Samantha is an author, publisher, creative writing facilitator, and founder of Young Voices. Through My Life of Words and Oak & Ink Publishing, she helps writers discover their voice, strengthen their confidence, and bring their stories to life. Young Voices was created out of her belief that creativity should be encouraged early and that every child deserves to know their ideas matter



Combining her passion for storytelling with her publishing experience, Samantha created the Young Voices Classroom Publishing Program to guide students through the writing process and give them the unforgettable experience of seeing their own words in print and becoming published authors.

PUBLISHING PARTNER

Classroom anthologies are professionally prepared and published through Oak & Ink Publishing with Little Rock Printing

BRING YOUNG VOICES TO YOUR SCHOOL

YOUR CLASSROOM'S STORIES COULD BE NEXT



Young Voices is currently connecting with Calgary and surrounding-area elementary schools interested in bringing the Classroom Publishing Program to their Grade 5 students.

PROGRAMS CAN BE DELIVERED TO:

- 1 Individual Grade 5 classrooms
- 2 Multiple Grade 5 classrooms with one school
- 3 Homeschool classrooms
- 4 Distance Learning classrooms

LET'S TALK

Interested in bringing Young Voices to your school?

Samantha Laycock: Founder & Facilitator, Young Voices

Email: oakandinkpublishing@gmail.com

Website: www.mylifeofwords.com/the-young-voices-club

Phone: 368-995-0704

YOUNG VOICES

STORIES START HERE