

WHAT'S THE STORY? SRA

The Contest to Become a Published Author

The winners have arrived

Open up to see the winners of SRA's
What's the Story? teacher writing contest

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SRA Imagine It!



The winning stories and poems from *What's the Story?* are being published as part of SRA/McGraw-Hill's new Pre-K–6 reading program, ***Imagine It!*** This core elementary reading program was developed using the input from thousands of teachers just like you—it turns imagination into reality!

Thanks to the insight teachers provided us, we're proud to say that ***Imagine It!*** combines the strength of proven, research-based instruction with the fun, friendly, and engaging features teachers want in a reading program. The result? An exciting program that opens new worlds of imagination for you and your students!



Learn more at ImagineltReading.com

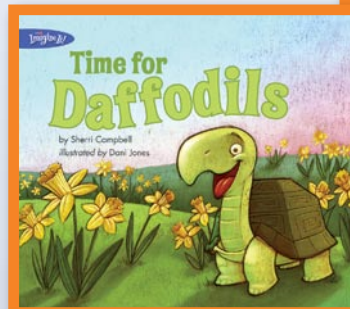
Meet the Story Winners



Margaret Jordan
The Line

Grade
Pre-K

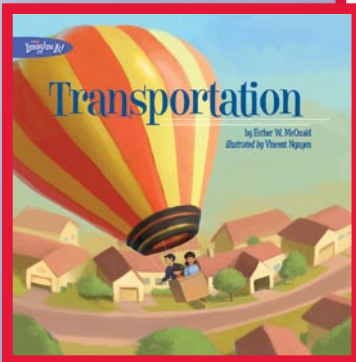
Retired after teaching kindergarten for 36 years at E. Morris Cox Elementary School in Oakland, California, Margaret knew from childhood that she wanted to be a teacher. She loves that teaching gave her the opportunity to use her creativity to help others learn. She used this creativity to write "The Line" to help teach a math lesson about shapes and lines. Margaret currently lives in Pasadena, California where she edits and publishes the newsletter for Pasadena-Foothill Division 1 of the California Retired Teachers Association.



Sherri Campbell
Daffodils

Grade 1

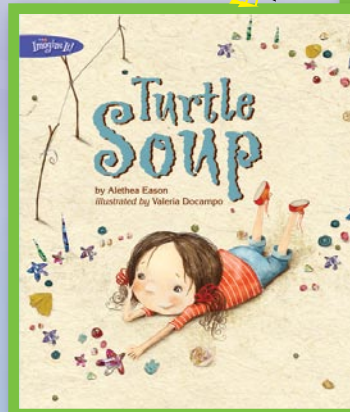
When Sherri was three years old, her family found a box turtle and fed "Mr. Turtle" vegetable scraps and strawberries almost every day. In her story, Sherri conveys turtles' wonderful qualities as well as the importance of showing love for others. Sherri's proudest moment as a teacher came after a challenging school year. The encouragement she needed to continue teaching came when she received a Teacher of the Year Award. Sherri is thrilled by the opportunity to use her gifts in teaching to impact so many lives.



Esther W. McQuaid
Transportation

Grade K

Esther has been a teacher for seventeen years. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. Esther found herself drawn to teaching by the energy and boundless potential she saw in children. Being published by SRA has been a dream for Esther. She is thrilled by the opportunity to combine her passion for writing with her love for teaching in order to continue her work after retirement.

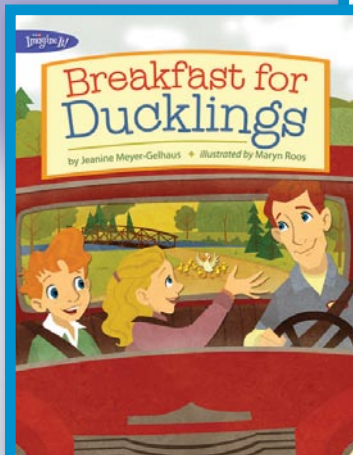
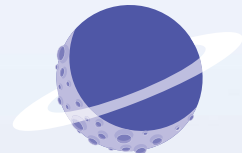


Alethea Eason
Turtle Soup

Grade 2

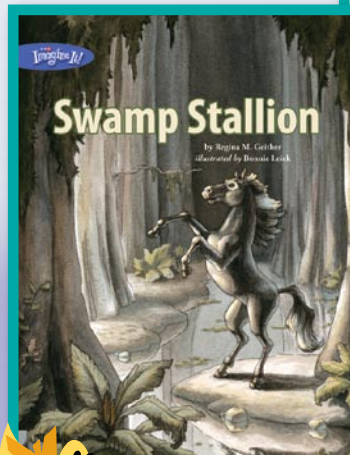
Alethea is a reading specialist for kindergarten through sixth grade in Middletown, California. Alethea, who decided to become a teacher when she was in the first grade, has taught for twenty-two years. She likes the combination of structure and creativity that teaching requires. Alethea has been voted Teacher of the Year by her school district three times. She enjoys painting and drawing and spends most of her spare time writing. Her love of sea turtles inspired this story, and she is proud to be a part of a program that has enriched the education of many students.





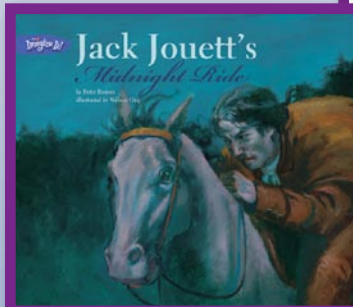
Jeanine Meyer-Gelhaus Grade 3
Breakfast for Ducklings

Jeanine has traveled all over the world! She traveled to Costa Rica, Russia, Brazil, South Africa, Ireland, and even Japan. The things Jeanine sees, touches, smells, tastes, and hears during her world travels become the inspiration for her writing. When at home in Medford, Wisconsin, Jeanine teaches middle school science, a job that gives her a chance to challenge and encourage young people. She also loves baseball and has visited stadiums all across the United States.



Regina Geither Grade 5
Swamp Stallion

Regina Geither teaches fourth-grade reading, science, health, and religion at St. Mary's Catholic School in Berea, Ohio and strives to make both school and learning exciting and fun. Using her familiarity with students that age and her knowledge and love of horses, she came up with the concept for "Swamp Stallion". Regina developed her love of writing in high school and having her story published by SRA has encouraged her to finish her first novel and hopefully publish it. In addition to reading and writing, Regina's interests include gardening, camping, and fishing.



Peter Barnes Grade 4
Midnight Ride

Peter Barnes is a fifth-grade teacher who lives and works in Westerville, Ohio. Peter's story, "Jack Jouett's Midnight Ride," was inspired by his lifelong interest in U.S. history. "History is really just a collection of interesting stories," Peter says. "Telling these stories makes our past come alive for kids." When he is not teaching at New Albany Elementary School, he enjoys basketball, cycling, guitar, reading, writing, and traveling, as well as spending time with his baby daughter.

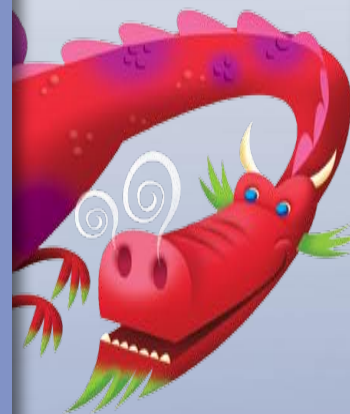


Barbara Haight Grade 6
Night Dive

Barbara has taught sixth-grade language arts in Kamuela, Hawaii, for nine years. Her hobbies include body-boarding, snorkeling, diving, hiking, reading, and writing. Like the characters in her story, she has also gone night diving. "It's exciting and I love to watch their flashlights beaming under the water as they maneuver the coast. I figured many kids have not experienced this, and I wanted to bring it to them through a story." Barbara has many ideas for other stories, and having her story published by SRA has encouraged her to seek further publication.



Meet the Poetry Winners



Cathleen Rogers
Hi Sky!

Grade
Pre-K

According to Cathleen, helping students develop reading skills is the greatest way to make a difference in their lives. This is why Cathleen who has worked in education for twenty-five years, has spent the last eight years as a reading specialist for kindergartners through eighth graders at Y.A.L.E. School. Her inspiration for the poem "Hi Sky!" came from memories of her early childhood. She remembers lying in the grass watching the clouds to find shapes in them. She currently lives in Collingswood Hill, New Jersey. Her favorite hobby is writing.



Patricia Micciche
Sea Song

Grade K

Patricia is an art teacher at Southwestern Elementary School in Jamestown, New York where she has taught for twenty years. Designs, patterns, sounds, and colors in nature inspire Patricia. A beautiful seashell inspired her to write "Sea Song." She often brings in leaves, flowers, rocks, and shells to her classroom to inspire her students. It was when Patricia was in kindergarten that she knew she wanted to be an artist. Later she discovered she wanted to become an art teacher to help others explore and experience their own creative abilities. Being published by SRA has inspired Patricia to keep writing and illustrating since she knows her work is being enjoyed and appreciated.





Coleen Caulfield

Discoveries

Grade 1

Reading has always been a passion for Coleen. As a child, reading unlocked her imagination as she began to craft stories and poems, filling endless notebooks and journals. This creativity and passion carried her through school as she pursued her goal of becoming a teacher. As a parent, Coleen felt the joy of sharing her passion for reading. Now, fulfilling her dream as a teacher in Livingston, New Jersey, Coleen daily sees the importance of reading. She helps students use their reading to learn and discover.



Karen Hatcher

Fun in the Garden

Grade 2

Karen Hatcher teaches ninth through twelfth grades in Midlothian, Virginia. She grew up in a family of teachers and has taught for twenty-one years. Karen says, "There is nothing more exciting than sharing my passion for learning with my students as they acquire the knowledge and skills they will need to become global citizens." Her fond memories of the times she spent with her own children in their country garden inspired her poem, and she hopes her poem will be a source of enjoyment for young readers.



Linda Perry

Who am I?

Grade 3

While on safari in Tanzania, Africa, Linda Perry saw many wonderful, exciting animals. "I really wanted to share the safari experience with children," she said. The animals she discovered mixed with her love of educating children inspired her poem "Who Am I?" Linda was a teacher in California for over twenty-five years. Now retired, Linda has more time for her favorite activities—reading, writing, traveling, dancing, and Web design. She also runs her own educational consulting business. Linda helps teachers mix new technology into their classrooms. She currently lives in Forest Ranch, California.



Linda Egeler

Why Is it?

Grade 4

Linda Egeler is a fourth-grade teacher who lives and works in Traverse City, Michigan. Linda has taught for fifteen years and will be entering her twelfth year at Cherry Knoll Elementary School. In addition to teaching, Linda loves traveling, gardening, hiking, and cross-country skiing. She hopes that the publication of her poem "will help inspire my students to believe that they, too, can become published one day."



Wendy Doremus

Saving the World

Grade 5

Wendy Doremus has worked as a school nurse for sixteen years. Because Wendy loved school as a child, she enjoys working in schools and teaching children how to be safe and healthy so they can be successful learners. Wendy's own four children, and their messes, inspired her to write "Saving the World." She is certain that they, despite their messes, will also make her proud by becoming "great citizens of the world." Wendy currently works as the Director of Health and Nursing for Hudson Public Schools in Hudson, Massachusetts.



Chris Carman Stidom

Improvisation

Grade 6

Chris is in her eighth year of teaching physical science to eighth graders in Carroll County, Virginia. She attended Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. Stidom thoroughly enjoys teaching: "I think science is a very exciting subject. With junior-high students there is never a dull moment. Combine the two, and I have a very interesting job." Her hobbies include photography and traveling with her family, as well as writing. "Being a published author was something I have looked forward to for many, many years," she says.



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