



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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48 Mohawk Trail Regional 7th Grade Students Are Published Authors

Buckland, MA - Leanne Blaszak, 7th grade English Language Arts teacher, offered students in her extension classes the opportunity to become published authors. But there was a catch. Each story could only be 100 words long.

Taking part in the [Young Writers](#) competition, Mohawk Trail Regional middle schoolers were given the assignment to write “speculative fiction,” stories that take place in our world, but feature magical, supernatural, futuristic or other twists. The exercise - and competition - is designed to allow students to write about what inspires them while focusing on the action and carefully considering their word choice. Seventh grade is a great time to build these skills with the hope of encouraging more confident writers. The organization provided materials to aid educators in leading their students through the process of starting with an idea to submitting a finished piece of writing.

The theme was “[The Glitch](#)” in which students had to imagine a story that included a change that has world-altering consequences. Writers used a graphic organizer to help map out their ideas and elements to their story. First steps included considering prompts, defining their character(s), and choosing the setting. Next came the creation of the big details of the beginning, middle and end. Fleshing it out and refining were the final steps.

Students worked for two Extension classes on developing their stories. Ms. Blaszak notes this about her students, “Encouraging young people to experiment with language in creative and challenging ways empowers them to trust their ideas, their skills, and their ability to tackle something new.”

Submitted in late February, these were some of titles of completed 100-word works: The Last One To See Color, The Forgetting, What We Thought Was The End, The Dark Box, The Subliminal Space, The Multi-Pocket Parallel Catastrophe, and Portraits. As a result of these and many more compelling mini sagas, 48 Mohawk Trail Regional 7th grade students can now claim the title of “published author.”

Every writer received a bookmark commemorating the experience. Those chosen for publication also received a certificate of merit. [The Glitch - Stories Of Imagination](#) is scheduled for

publication on July 31, 2024. As a participating school, Mohawk Trail Regional will receive a complimentary copy of the book allowing all featured students the chance to see their work in print. Parental permission is needed for stories to be published - if your student is one of the authors and you haven't yet signed off on publishing, please do in the next couple of weeks.

We are proud of the many MTRS 7th grade students whose English language arts skills, coupled with guidance from Ms. Blaszak and the materials from Young Writers, offered a sense of accomplishment and perhaps, permission to dream a little bigger about what the future holds.



ABOUT MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL

26 Ashfield Road, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

The Mohawk Trail Regional School (MTRS), located in Buckland, Mass., serves grades seven through 12 a middle and high school. Located in a rural community in the Berkshire foothills, the school serves students from Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, Shelburne, and beyond. MTRS is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Our distinct Trailblazer model allows students choice, flexibility, and personalization as they explore their interests and challenge themselves while being supported by a host of invested teachers and collaborative peers. To learn more, please visit www.mtrs.org, or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

ABOUT [YOUNG WRITERS](#)

Young Writers was established in 1991 in a small warehouse in Eastern England and has blossomed into a worldwide brand. Today, Young Writers is still a modest family-run business and prides itself on encouraging young writers to read, write and enjoy poetry as well as creative writing. Having work published boosts confidence, nurtures creative talent and showcases creativity.