



HARRISBURG AREA
HOMESCHOOLERS ASSOCIATION

July 15, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Mr. Stephen Kozan presented a virtual Author Lesson to two groups of our homeschoolers, explaining what an author does, what an illustrator does, how they work together to get a manuscript ready to be published. He then gave our students 20 mins to write a quick fictional piece, what he calls "Flash Fiction," and then he took all those stories and whittled it down to three finalists in each group and eventually to one winner per group.

The two winners were tasked with fleshing out their original manuscript, working with the illustrators and providing everything necessary to help Mr. Kozan get their books published in a very short time frame.

Here are the thoughts of our winners:

"Writing for Mr. Kozan was amazing. I felt and still feel very honored to have been chosen to publish my book. That's not an opportunity most kids my age, 11, get. The whole process was so cool. From typing a short story on my laptop to seeing the first copies of my book was exhilarating. I don't think I will ever forget the experience Mr. Kozan gave me and my friends."

~Miss Natalie Buffington, age 11

"Mr. Stephen Kozan and ReadyAimWrite Kids gave me the fantastic opportunity to have my own book published at age thirteen. I, in competition with several other home-schooled students, showed him a sample of what my book would be, and he chose me as one of three finalists. We then sent him more information on our ideas, and he picked me as the one to write a book for him to publish. In the weeks that followed, I got a taste of the book-writing process. I learned that it requires hard work and can be stressful, but that it can be completed if you persevere. Now I am a published author who feels a sense of accomplishment. Not only did I write my own published book, but I was also able to share in it about things that are important to me and hopefully encourage other young writers. All this is not to mention the future benefits of having my own book published at such a young age! Thank you, Mr. Kozan!"

~Miss Rachel Hess, Student author, age 13

As you can see, this experience has had a profound effect upon our students. Our leadership team is so pleased with the results of this venture that we have invited Mr. Kozan back again this year and are spreading the word so even more homeschoolers participate.

Sincerely yours,

Beth Mellott

(Field trip coordinator for the Harrisburg Area Homeschoolers Association)