

## **Publishing**

Publishing is the reason many of us write in the classroom. Boasting about a struggling student's just-published piece has given that student motivation to continue writing. Publishing can take a myriad forms, but should always be accompanied by a read aloud.

Author's Chair The most famous way to share pieces in a classroom setting. The chair needs to be decorated so it stands out. Some teachers bring in juice and cookies, others let the children invite their siblings. Not everybody can read on a given day, that's why you post a sign-in sheet and give priority to those who are finished. During author's chair, giving useful but appropriate feedback has to be modeled. For ELLs, sentence frames can be provided: "What I liked most about your piece was..."

Class anthology The mimeograph is the cheapest way to produce one, or get Kinko's to donate. Most teachers like their students to type their pieces on the computer, but if they are written clearly, this is not so important. It takes time to help everyone edit their pieces, so allow about a month with sessions three times a week.

School Newsletter What better way to reward the efforts of a struggling writer? See if your principal has space for a short essay or story, and insist that effort and progress made over time should count more than immediate perfection.

Web Site If your school is fortunate enough to have someone who can post your students' writing on the school web site, make sure all pieces are ready before you turn in the whole batch. Also, you'll need to notify the parents and get their permission.



Bulletin Board Do something creative. Develop a "ceremony" on the day you post the finished pieces. Talk about each writer's accomplishments, and have them tell the class about their goals as writers.

Individual Books In March, some teachers start asking students to collect their best pieces, which they then bind and send home on the last day of school, not without holding an extended author's chair session.