

Dear Educators,

As you embark on this journey with the First Author Writing Curriculum, I assure you of challenging days when your students will be a little “spicy.” We just had one of those days yesterday—it was, after all, the day before Halloween! Persevere and stick with it! What we took away from yesterday’s writing instructional time was that the joys and student accomplishments, both big and small, far outweighed our challenges as the students repeatedly showed us new writing skills and more sophisticated ways of engaging with us and with each other. I look forward to hearing your stories about individual students and classroom milestones.

My final thoughts—

Defy old assumptions and embrace new perspectives

Challenge students and keep them safe

Be fearless and create students who are fearless

AND, most importantly, be joyful!

This curriculum represents 25 years of thinking about how educators can integrate speaking, listening, reading and writing and optimize performance in these students who present with such a broad range of abilities and challenges. I dream now of a time when all students, especially those with the most complex learning needs, receive high-quality, explicit instruction every day, from the first day they enter school.

Best Regards,
Janet

