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Lamorinda Teacher Captures Children's Attention with Firefly Nights

FAMILY + PARENTING

LAMORINDA TEACHER CAPTURES CHILDREN'S ATTENTION WITH FIREFLY NIGHTS



WRITTEN BY JENNIFER SEELIG. POSTED IN [FAMILY + PARENTING](#)

Teachers wear many hats, that's for sure. And for one Lafayette teacher, the hat doesn't come off at night. Instead, she uses her hours outside of the classroom to create something magical that the kids will love inside the classroom, and for years to come.



Most any Lamorinda parent will tell you that two of the most treasured items in a child's day-to-day life are books and teachers. Each, independently, can stimulate a child's creativity and encourage a lifelong love of reading, writing and storytelling.

Imagine, then, what happens **when books and teachers combine as one**. The result can be electrifying – perhaps even illuminating – like the beautiful, whimsical-looking fireflies in Evanne Jordan's self-published children's book, "**Firefly Night**."

WRITING AND WORKING, WORKING AND WRITING

"I've been writing ever since I was in third grade," reminisced Jordan, a teacher at The Child Day School, Lafayette. "I really do credit my third grade teacher with inspiring me to write because every Friday we did creative writing. It was my favorite thing to do."

Between third grade and present day, Jordan studied English and creative writing at SUNY, The State University of New York, and began a lifelong career in early childhood education.

By day, she taught. But by night – for many, many nights – she was an author with a vision and a passion, determined that her stories would make it to print.

"Life went on," she acknowledged. "Every time I would sit down to write a book, I would also have

to work full time."

"But at one point, I was living in Illinois and the neighborhood children were out catching fireflies. It brought back such great memories from New York," Jordan continued. "The next day I just sat down and thought, I need to write about it."

"Firefly Night" readers follow A.J. and his sister as they embark on a quest to capture fireflies of their own, one warm summer evening.

PERFECTING THE ART OF PUBLISHING

Jordan embarked on a bit of an adventure, herself – in search of a publisher. It's something she's long thought about with her books. "Firefly Night" is just one of the books Jordan has written.

"I tried to get them published but it's really, really hard to do. It's literally a full time job."

"Unless you're a rock star," she joked, "nobody's going to even look at your book."



She works with an editor to perfect the prose, but the project runs the risk of stalling when it's time to publish. So, she considered two options with "Firefly Night" – find an agent or publish the book on her own.

She went with option number two.

"A lot of people are actually doing it," she said of the self publishing route.

Jordan speaks glowingly of the local company she worked with, Interdimensional Press.

"You get really hands-on, personal service," Jordan said. "For them, it's one book at a time." With the book ready to go and the publishing service lined up, all that was left to find was an illustrator.

"I'm not an artist," acknowledged Jordan. "Another teacher at The Child Day School said she would do the illustrations, beautiful watercolor illustrations, each by hand. Once she did those, it all came together and I published it."

PUBLISHED AND PROUD

"It felt really amazing," enthused Jordan of seeing the finished product. "It's just unbelievable to Google my name and see my book. To see it in print was just awesome."

Equally awesome for Jordan? Seeing children's reaction to the book.

"Children need to see the printed word. They need to make that connection between our spoken words and written words. When they make that connection, they get excited," she pointed out.

"Children should be inundated with books," she continued. "It's so important to create this love of literature."

It's something she knows not only as a published author, but an early childhood educator, too. She believes very strongly in reading to children – and encouraging them to write, too.

"In fact, whenever I do a presentation, I always ask the children – do you draw, do you write stories? Then guess what? You're authors and illustrators, too."

"Firefly Night" is available on Amazon, Kindle, BN.com and Smashwords.com. [Read more about "Firefly Night" and Evanne Jordan online.](#) She is available for school and library presentations, fundraisers and nonprofit events.

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