

Jacqueline Jules Visits Highland View

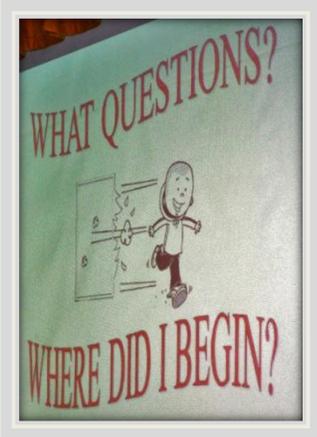


Author Jacqueline Jules shared her award-winning stories and discussed her writing process with Highland View students as part of the culminating celebration of our school's Read-A-Thon during the month of March.



From the moment Ms. Jules held up a mystery box, students were immediately caught up in the adventures of super-hero, Freddie Ramos. The box contained a very special order delivered to Freddie's house that would completely change his life.

Ms. Jules explained that the idea of writing stories about super heroes began when she was a librarian at Timber Lake Elementary School in Virginia. Younger readers at her school wanted to read books about super heroes. When she combed through her book collection, Ms. Jules realized that the print was too small and the stories were too mature for many of the youngsters, so she decided to create a story about a super hero character based on a composite of 2 of her students.



As Ms. Jules read portions from several of her stories, she explained her writing process. She emphasized the importance of asking questions and said, "Questions make stories grow." She gave examples of a series of questions she asked herself as she wrote her stories. For example, she asked questions about the main character: Was the character a boy or a girl? Did he have a family? Who were his friends? Where did he live? Where would the story take place? What kind of super power would he have? She also noted that readers often asked questions as they read and that authors do their best to anticipate those questions as they write their stories.

Ms. Jules also noted that although stories may start with

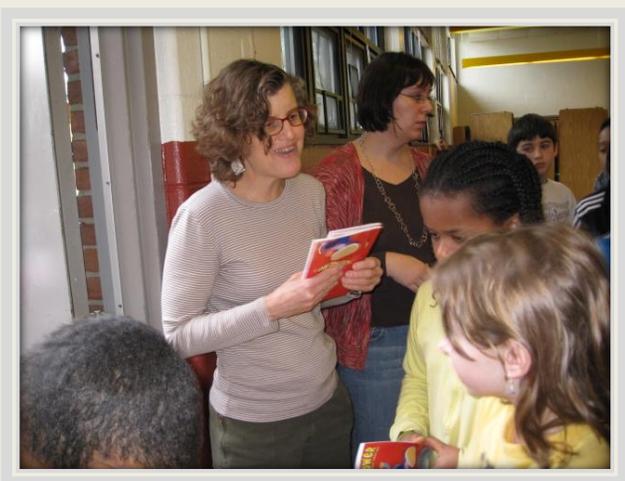


questions, characters need problems to solve. She encouraged students to use their imaginations, to write from their personal experiences, to be adventurous with their writing by rearranging their words and phrases. Ms. Jules also advised the young authors in the audience to discuss their story ideas and questions with one another.

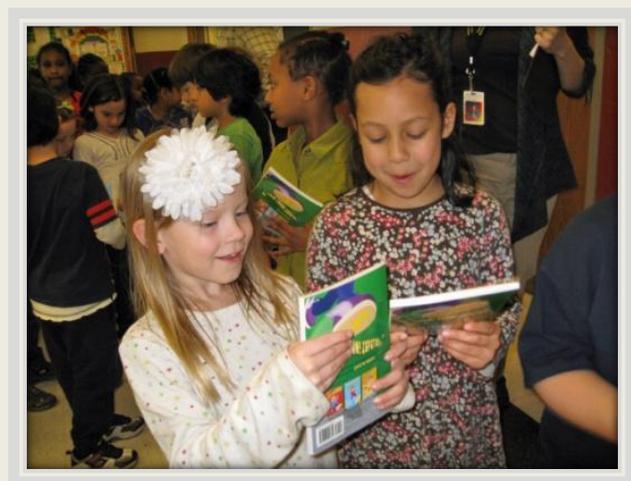
Ms. Jules added, “Stories take a long time to write.” When she asked the audience if their teachers asked them to add more to their writing, the answer was a resounding, “Yes!” Ms. Jules shared that published writers have editors that also ask them to revise their work. The audience was surprised to learn that Ms. Jules wrote 50 drafts for one of her stories and that her editor asked her to add more words.



Jacqueline Jules has made a lasting impression on our Highland View students. They have already started to read all about Freddie Ramos, the energetic elementary school age youngster who becomes a super hero. Thanks to the generosity of a grant from the non-profit children’s literacy foundation, **An Open Book**, each student received a copy of one of Ms. Jules’ books as they left the assembly. A complete set of books were autographed and donated to our school library.



Heidi Powell presented students with a copy of Zapato Power. The books are a generous donation from An Open Book Foundation.



Students were delighted to receive a copy of the book.



When asked about his thoughts about Ms. Jules' presentation, Will, a second grader smiled and said, "I loved it! I'm looking forward to reading how Freddie faces a bully. I already used some of her ideas in writing. I'm creating a super hero book about a super hero who has super strength, super flying powers and just got a super mission!"

Highland View writers are experimenting with Ms. Jules' writing techniques as they imagine and create their own stories.

Highland View extends our special thanks to Ms. Heidi Powell, co-founder of An Open Book Foundation, for sponsoring Ms. Jules' visit and generously donating books to our school.