

MICFIXIT - BOOK 1 - MAGIC!

TEACHER'S GUIDE TESTIMONIAL



I teach grades 2 and 3 English at a French Immersion school in Toronto. I recently read MicFixit to my students. Their reactions to this lesson were all so exciting and positive that I felt I motivated to write this letter.

I started out with a class discussion about their previous experiences. Every one of them had something to tell us about what types of boats they have been on and the wonderful experiences they have had. The questions about magic got their imaginations soaring! When I asked them about who they saw as heroes, I was pleasantly surprised by their answers. I was expecting to hear about Spiderman or Mario but many of them gave real heroes in their lives like their mom or dad. One boy said his hero today was one of his classmates because when he got hurt at recess, this classmate came over and gave him a hug and took him to the office to get ice.

As I started reading the book, the class fell silent and they were all captivated by the events as they were unfolding in the book. I did find that the questions I asked as we read helped to keep them engaged in the story. They were all trying to figure out who MicFixit was and what wonderful things he would Micfix next. Because they so actively participated in elaborately answering the questions, I only got through half the book in my first lesson. The whole class said "awwwwww, can't you read just a bit more?" Then every time I saw them after that, they would ask, "When are we going to finish reading MicFixit?" They cheered when I was able to return to the lesson.

I was impressed by the thoughtfulness and creativity they put into their answers as I asked them the questions that followed the reading of MicFixit. Their ideas on the benefits of teamwork and helping others were heartwarming. When I asked them what they would Micfix, I was amazed by how many interesting and unique ideas they eagerly volunteered. This book really sparked their imaginations. When I gave them paper to draw out their creations, not one student said "I don't know what to draw," they all got to work quickly and excitedly.

The most amazing thing happened when I asked them to present their ideas to the class. I have one grade 2 student who mumbles most everything and talks very quietly if at all during class. When I asked who wanted to present their creations, his hand shot right up. Then he confidently came to the front of the class (he has never done this in English class) and in a loud and enthusiastic voice explained what he had drawn on his paper. His classroom teacher and I just stood there in amazement as our heart soared for this little victory.

This was not an isolated occurrence. In my grade 3 class I have a boy who is terrified of public speaking especially when it comes to presenting his own work. After working thoughtfully on his creation and getting caught up in the excitement of the class, he volunteered to present his idea to the class. He came up to the front, then froze when he realized what he was doing. I asked him a few questions about what he had come up with and after his passion about his creation was renewed, he presented the rest of it to the class in a clear and strong voice. He returned to his seat with a great big smile on his face!

This book brought excitement and wonder to my students. It helped unlock their creativity and imagination. I am most grateful for the self-esteem it helped foster inside of them as they freely expressed themselves in response to the questions and creative activities. It is an amazingly well written book that the students can identify with and learn from. I know all my students are eagerly awaiting book 2!

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