

# Connecting Young Writers with Authors/Illustrators

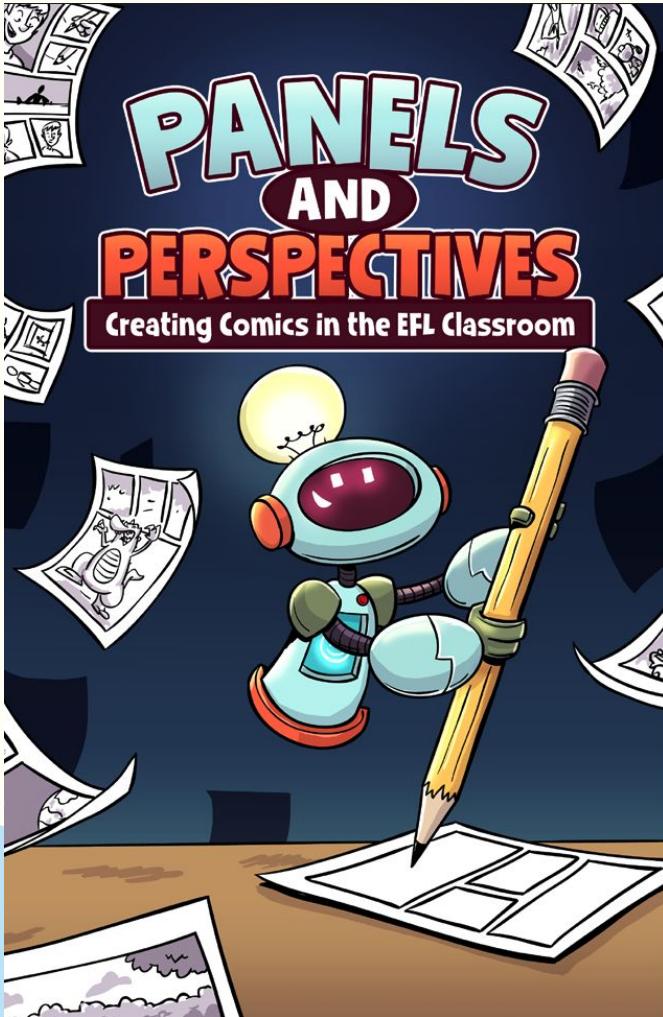
Encouraging creativity, collaboration,  
and outside-the-box approaches to  
gifted and talented programs.

# What happens when middle schoolers become published authors?

AKA: How we stumbled into an organic  
“writer-in-residence” program.

# A brief introduction

- **An Educator and and a Published Author/Illustrator**
- **Working together since 2018**
- **Different roles, same goal: Encouraging young authors.**



# PANELS AND PERSPECTIVES

Creating Comics in the EFL Classroom

OFFICE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS  
BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



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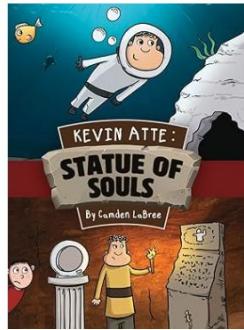
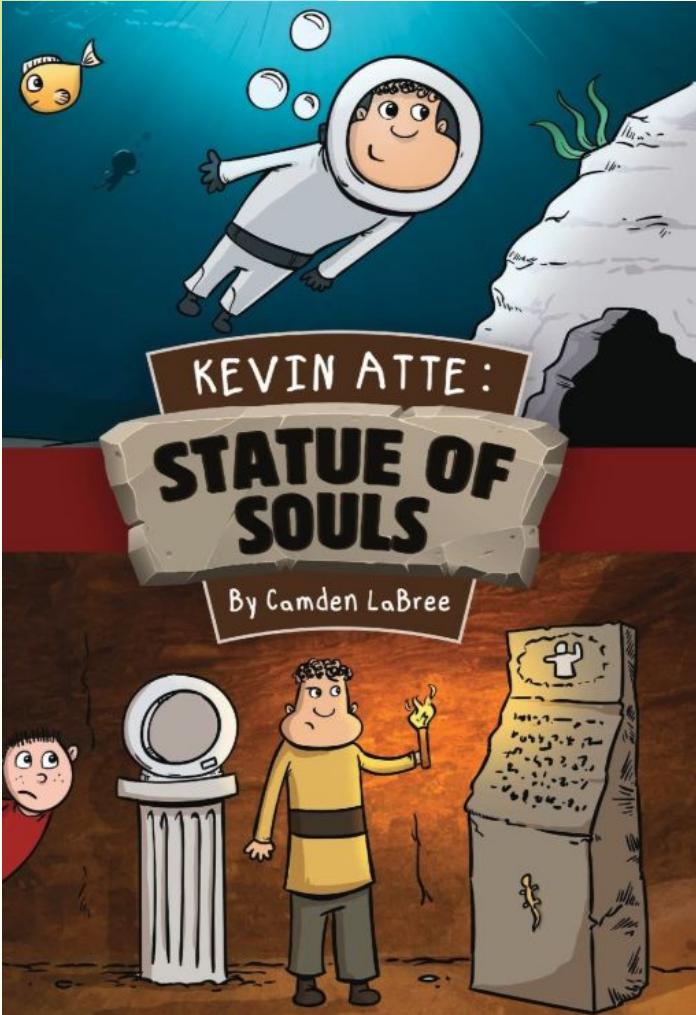
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# Thinking outside the box...

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# Where we started...



## Kevin Atte: Statue of Souls Paperback – May 29, 2018

by [Camden LaBree](#) (Author)  
5.0  (6)

Kevin Atte is an adventurous man and aspiring author. When he stumbles upon a plaque describing an ancient artifact with other worldly powers, he decides to turn it into what he hopes to be the next best seller. Unfortunately, it's a flop. Determined to find the treasure, he teams up with the mysterious Sid to track it down. Will they be able to retrieve the artifact and return safely?

[Report an issue with this product or seller](#)

Print length



48 pages

Language



English

Publication date



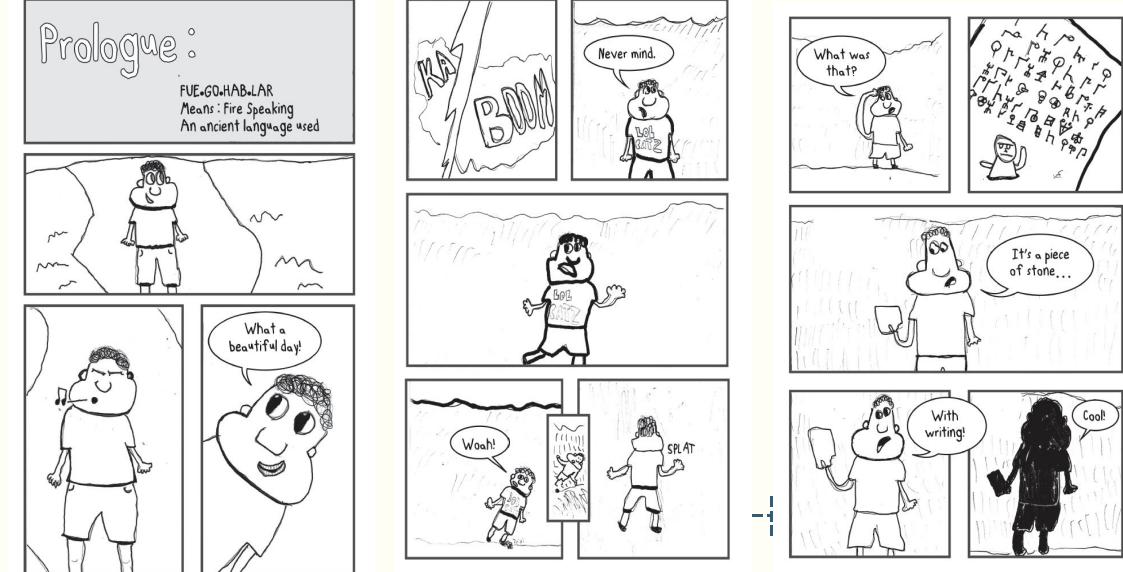
May 29, 2018

Dimensions



6 x 0.11 x 9 inches

[See all details](#)



# Oscar is stumped.



10 more feet to go. Oscar looked up and spotted the hole.

Almost there...

As he had been climbing for a while, he seemed to be climbing without actually thinking about it. Because of this, by the time he realized he couldn't climb anymore, it was too late. After feeling a sticky substance rolling down his sleeves, he looked down to see himself coated in a goo-like liquid. He couldn't move.

Oscar looked down and saw Roscoe standing with his friend. He could hear their endless laughter from 55 feet high.

Roscoe cupped his hands to his mouth and yelled, "That's

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*I can't believe I'm going to be a lumberjack, Oscar*  
Logcutter thought to himself.

Oscar didn't want to be a lumberjack. He knew that it was one of the world's most dangerous jobs, yet, he had no choice but to.

His parents had been in the logging industry for generations. His father had made lots of money being the chief executive for a company that sold equipment to lumberjacks, such as chainsaws and trucks.

**Beep. Beep!** Oscar's alarm clock went off. He got out of bed like a zombie, his arms and feet seemingly

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The two of them broke out in laughter once again. Oscar diverted his attention from them to the basket. It was five feet above him... a lost cause.

Oscar could feel the football slipping from his grasp, yet he didn't mind. If only sap had gotten it onto his hand. It fell the 55 feet, and then landed gently in Roscoe's hands.

"Thanks, Oscar. I've wanted to go against you for a long time, but I've just been so scared! Thank you for giving me the game!"

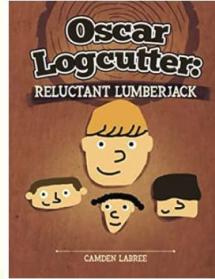
Roscoe took the ball and casually strided to Oscar's goal. Roscoe and his friend were laughing as they scored a point.

Roscoe waved and said, "Have fun hanging out!"

The two of them disappeared into the school. The sap was getting into Oscar's hair.

*Oh, great, Oscar thought. I guess I'm stuck here.*

Oscar checked his watch. There was 5 more minutes of their free time left. He wondered if anyone one find him before the school bell rang.



Oscar Logcutter: Reluctant Lumberjack Paperback – September

10, 2019

by Camden LaBree (Author)

5.0  (8)

Oscar Logcutter doesn't want to be a lumberjack, but he is forced to. His family has had a long line of lumberjacks, and his parents want him to be one too. So, Oscar is sent off to lumberjack school. On his first day, he has a run-in with the Lumberjocks, a group of bullies with Roscoe Silvester in the middle. Oscar also meets Reid Wood, who informs him of the lumberjack sport Football. Oscar practices for the school championship at the end of the year, but finds out that Roscoe is going to be competing against him. Will Oscar win the football championship, and get the hang of lumberjacking?

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Print length

1

100 pages

Language

English

Publication date

September 10, 2019

Dimensions

5.75 x 0.23 x 7.5 inches

See all details





Realms: A Short Story Paperback – May 18, 2023

by Meghna Vijay (Author)

4.6 ★★★★★ ✅ (6)

Bree and Logan were your average teenagers until the ground split between them and hurled them into a world that's anything but ordinary. They've landed in a completely unknown universe where they must learn how to navigate their way home. If there's a way home?

The problem is the chaotic path leads directly to and through the Madness Realm. Along the way, they encounter friends, foes, and uncover secrets about themselves. These secrets shake the foundation of everything they thought they knew! Will they make their way home? Or will they find themselves stuck in this unfamiliar world?

Their journey, their choices, and their courage will decide their fate.

 Report an issue with this product or seller

Print length	Language	Publication date	Dimensions
 64 pages	 English	 May 18, 2023	 5.25 x 0.15 x 1 inches

kinds of stories about it. Now that I was older I realized they probably were figments of her imagination.

"Incorrect, the golden galaxy is one of the galaxies that was recently discovered and we know very little about it. All research missions to the galaxy have failed. There is something peculiar about it and we can't figure it out. Anyways, the correct answer is..." My hand shot up

"The Milky Way." Out of the corner of my eye I saw Logan shake his head and start talking again.

"Logan!" I heard a bunch of people shouting his name behind me. I started speeding up trying to avoid interaction.

"Bree!" I pretended I didn't hear him and sped up, practically running to my locker. I reached my locker and busied myself opening it, Logan finally reached me, leaning against the locker.

"Hey, sis! Are you going on the bus?"

"No Dad is picking me up," I replied firmly.

"He's probably going to bail, work or something. You know the usual. You should join me." He exclaimed "A couple of friends and I are going to the arcade. It will be fun!"

"You know, they are only using you for your money," I stated.

"C'mon Bree, don't be like that." He groaned.

CHAPTER 2

*Logan*

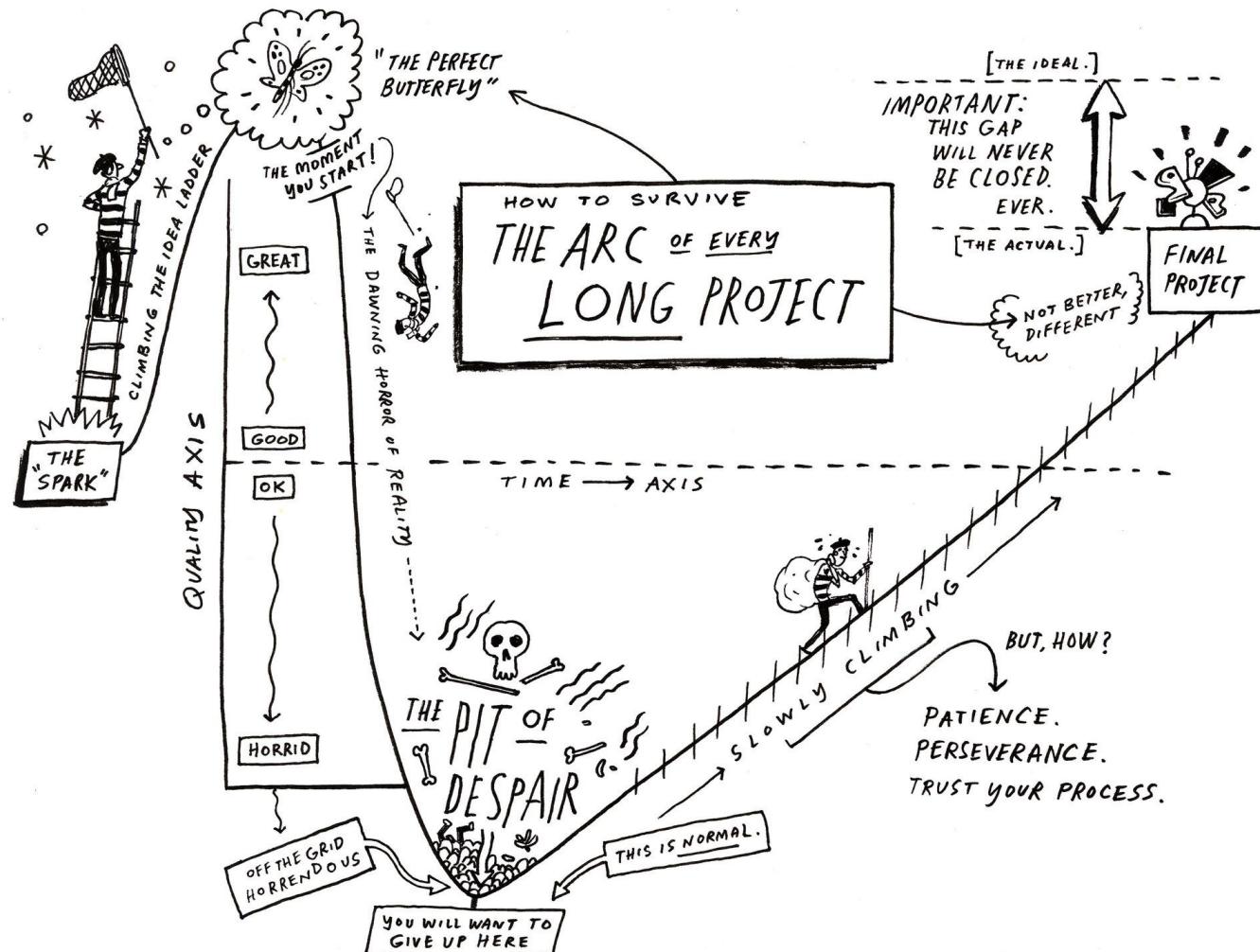
I gasped. Buildings like this are usually seen in Marvel movies. I glanced over at Bree's face and sure enough, she was still staring down the huge orb. I thought it was cool but Bree was probably nervous or debating all scientific possibilities as to why the orb was floating.

"We should go there." I suggested, " Maybe there are people who can tell us a little bit more about this place."

Bree slowly turned to look at me and nodded. We headed across the grassy field to the huge building. We reached the front of the building and I noticed that the grounds were gray with streaks of color here and there, the building itself was very modern looking and twice the size of the White House. As I approached the building I saw a girl punching a dummy with such ferocity as to take off its head. Every time she landed a punch a white light sparked up. Her light blonde hair was up in a bun showing her pale skin and gray eyes. We slowly approached her, hearing her grunts as she punched.

"Excuse me?" I tapped her on the shoulder.

# Challenges



# What we're doing now:



- **13 Students (Two groups)**
- **Elementary & Middle Grades**
- **Anthology Project**

# The importance of collaboration...

# Real-world Creative Partnerships Enrich GT Programs

Authors and illustrators bring more than inspiration—they bring process, feedback, and real-world connection.

# Meaningful & Memorable

"When I was younger, I had the opportunity to .... create and publish my own books. Collaborating with someone who had already achieved success taught me invaluable lessons about creativity, discipline, and the importance of persistence in bringing my ideas to life. I am thankful for those early experiences and I think it has helped shape me into the person I am today."

~ Camden LaBree

# Meaningful & Memorable

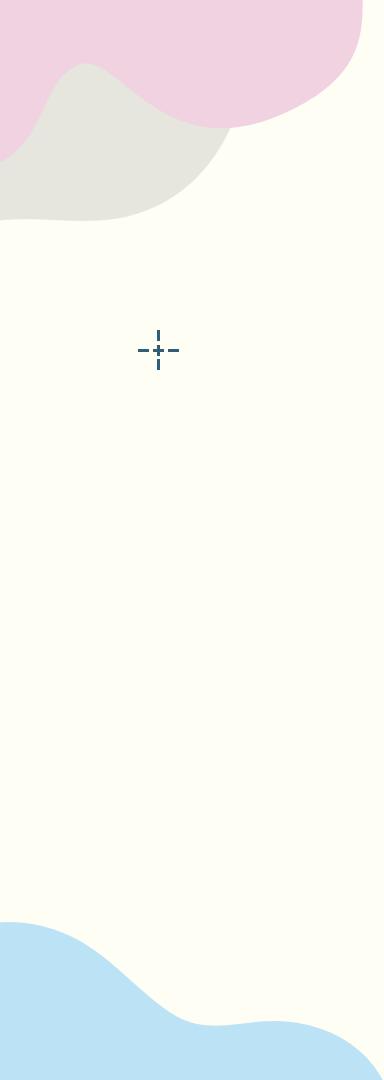
As a mother, watching my son work with Josh Alves was an incredible experience. It not only gave him a unique glimpse into the process of creating a book, but it also boosted his confidence in ways I hadn't imagined. Seeing his ideas come to life and watching him navigate the challenges of writing and editing helped him realize his potential as a writer. The opportunity to collaborate with someone who had already achieved so much instilled in him a belief that his own dreams were possible, and it gave him the courage to pursue his passion with determination and self-assurance.

~ Candi LaBree



# Structure + Freedom = Growth

Independent projects thrive with support.



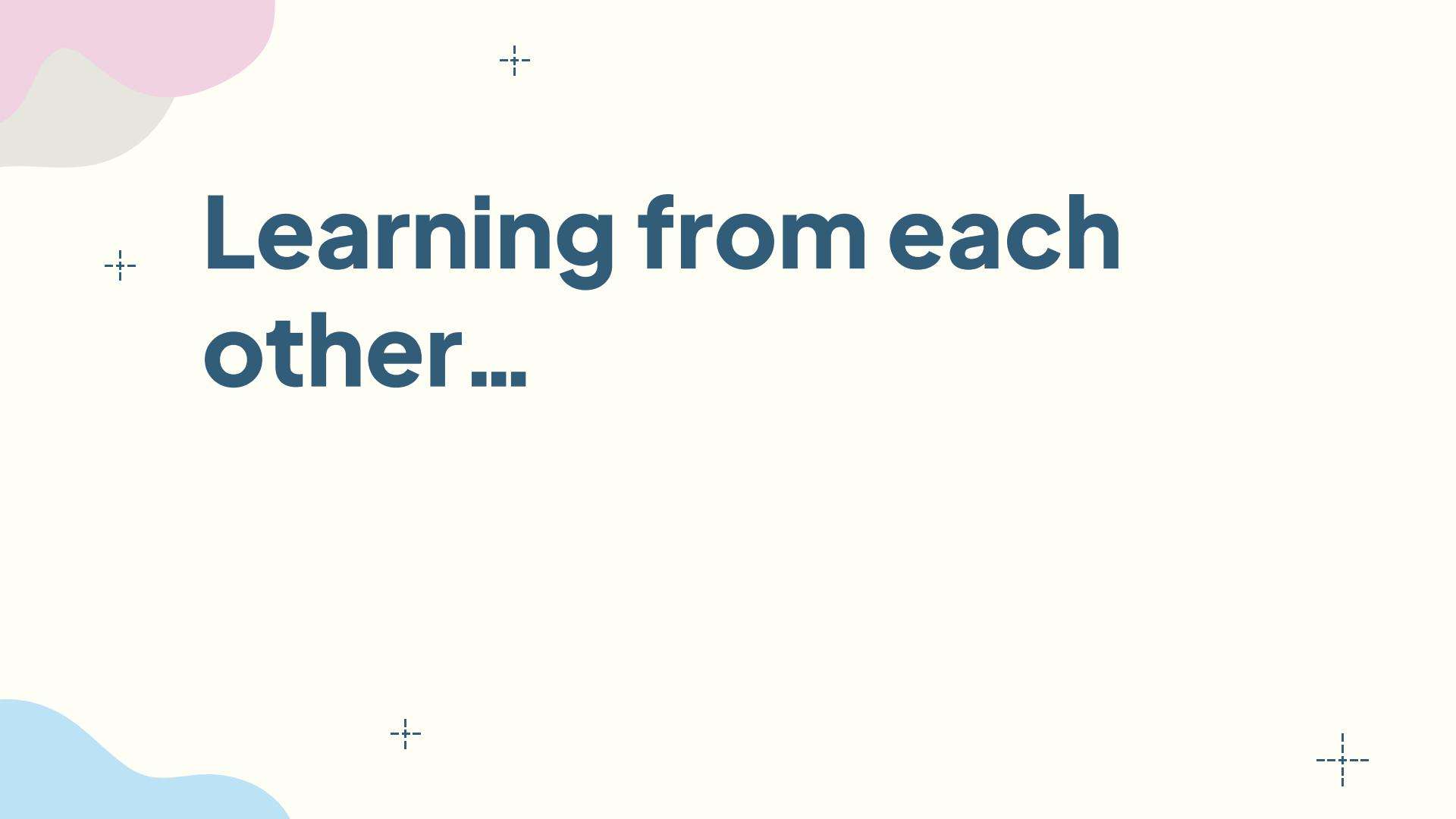
# Every school can start somewhere – even small!

A long-term partnership might begin with one conversation or one workshop!

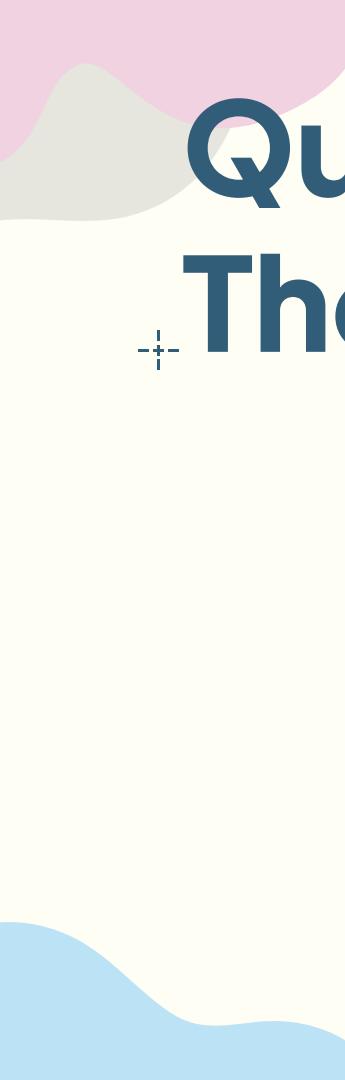


# Where do we go from here?

- Author Visits
  - Workshops
  - Intentional Time with Educators
- Virtual Assistance
  - Connecting with local/area creators
  - Establishing long-term connections



# Learning from each other...



Questions?  
Thoughts?



# Thank you!

Do you have any questions?



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