

Starr's Story

Eight-year-old author, Gabriella Starr, is sharing her imagination with others by penning children's books

Written by Lacey Kupfer Wulf | Photography by Sara Isola

At age 8, most kids are only imagining what they want to be when they grow up. Not Gabriella Starr. She has already published three books and is increasing her readership following on social media.

For Starr, pen name for Kira Albino, the love of the written word started early. Her mother, Andrea Albino, says, "She's been reading since she was 4, and she devoured as much literature as possible." In school, Gabriella's short story assignments always seemed to include vivid details that alerted her parents to her potential in writing. "She loves using her imagination to create stories and a world of her own with talking animals," Andrea adds.

Inspiration

In her spare time, Starr raises monarch butterflies, which are her favorite, but she loves all animals. In fact, she has used real-life animals to inspire characters in her books. The main character in her first book, entitled *Princess the Puppy*, is based on her neighbor's golden retriever. Starr says, "I just decided to change it a little bit and make it a golden retriever puppy." Her other books include *Kacey the Kitten* and *Blossom the Bunny*.

Sharing Stories

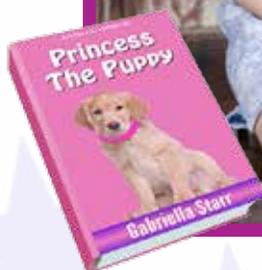
As a freelance writer and novelist herself, Andrea, along with her husband Gustavo, encourage Starr to share the stories in her head with the world. "We want to help her have fun with her interests and learn to express her creativity," Andrea says. "My parents believe that I can do amazing things," Starr adds.

Although Starr is the author of these books, her mother works with her every step of the way. Andrea records their brainstorming sessions, types Starr's dictation, and goes through every paragraph with her to make sure the story is clear and compelling. Andrea says, "Magically it comes out as something readable."

Book Brainstorming

With each book, Gabriella's talents have improved. "She is taking advantage of her expanded imagination with more conflict, details, and interesting stories," says Andrea. In the future, Starr says, "I want to illustrate my books, too. I do think I'm good at that." She and Andrea are still in the brainstorming stage for the next book when a new animal character will be introduced. **KM**

Gabriella Starr has written and released three digital children's books: *Princess the Puppy*, *Kacey the Kitten*, and *Blossom the Bunny*



Get to Know Gabriella

- ★ Raises monarch butterflies
- ★ Plays soccer, basketball, and swims
- ★ Loves animals
- ★ Sells her digital books on Amazon

British Private Prep School's Cinco Ranch location

The British Preschool Advantage

Five ways Katy children of all nationalities benefit from this proven British Curriculum

by Cheryl Sage, owner of British Private Prep Schools & preschool educator

1. Education Readiness

Recognized by many Katy ISD teachers as a leader in preschool education, British Private Prep ensures children are well-prepared to meet Katy's competitive academic standards. We have degreed teachers and an education coordinator that implements your child's daily academic plan.

2. Manners and Etiquette

From proper table manners to waiting one's turn; from being a friend to respecting others, we use positive reinforcement and age-appropriate techniques to instill these basics at an early age.

3. Social Development

Through a variety of social experiences, we help children develop a positive sense of themselves and others. Children also learn how to stay on task, maintain concentration, and sit quietly when appropriate.

4. Language and Literacy

Using a variety of educational tools, we help children become competent speakers and listeners. We teach and reinforce appropriate use of language and communication.

5. Knowledge of the World

Through hands-on activities, children encounter people, plants, and objects in their natural environments to help them gain a perspective of the world they live in.

Degreed, nurturing teachers



Character building and responsibility



Daily Academic Plans for each child

© 2014 Katy Magazine



CHERYL SAGE is the Owner and President of British Private Prep Schools. She has a Bachelor of Education from Middlesex University in London. Sage is a seasoned educator, presenter, and trainer on preschool topics.

The British Curriculum is known worldwide for its focus on academics along with character building life-skills like responsibility, respect, manners, and kindness. British Private Prep has served 1500+ children and is one of the most recognized and respected preschool programs in the area.



Open Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

TOUR OUR SCHOOLS

Tours are held every Friday at 10 a.m.

No appointment necessary.

www.BPPS.gs

CINCO SOUTHWEST LOCATION

25935 Cinco Terrace Dr., Katy 77494 | 281.394.7737

CINCO EAST LOCATION

4025 S. Mason Rd., Katy 77450 | 281.828.2000

FIRETHORNE LOCATION

28031 South Firethorne Dr., Katy 77494 | 281.394.5889