

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

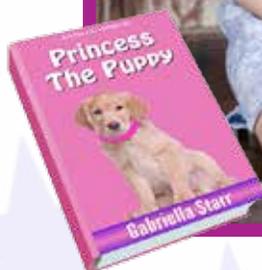
As a freelance writer and novelist herself, Andrea, along with her husband Gustavo, encourage Starr to share the stories in her head with the world. "We want to help her have fun with her interests and learn to express her creativity," Andrea says. "My parents believe that I can do amazing things," Starr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

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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.

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