

## Young Authors Night at Western Coventry School

(Patch.com April 2011) by Corey Johnson



*Students shared their original stories with members of the community.*

As part of the celebration for April's Reading Month, students at Western Coventry School spent Tuesday evening reading their original books at Young Authors Night. Parents, extended family, friends and younger students gathered at 7 p.m to hear the stories of mixed grade level authors from first to fifth grade.

Students worked on their stories during class time and children in grade three and above had the option to create an additional story at home. Topics were broad, but many themes prevailed. "They wrote about their trips," (of their Florida and New Jersey vacations) said Nicole Martin, a mother of first and third grade students. "Both of my kids took the non-fiction route."

Many students created illustrations for the books which ranged from fiction to chapter to poetry. Fifth grader Molly Rush created her book with the audience in mind by designing pictures to face the audience as she read the poem on the opposite side.

First grader Olivia Delsasso let us in on the writing process. "First we wrote it in a little notebook. Then we wrote it in the real book. I love to make books." Her story was about a unicorn and used descriptive words that allowed her to "make a movie in my head."

Each of the seven classrooms was full of smiles for the budding authors. Attendees gave feedback to the children when they finished reading their stories and before concluding the evening, visitors were encouraged to leave written comments in the back of each book. Of the mixed grade groups, first grade teacher Lynn Millard said "The kids were very supportive."