

Meet a Reading a-z Author

Alyse Sweeney Writes More Books for Reading A-Z

Alyse Sweeney knew she wanted to be an author when she was in the fifth grade. An author/illustrator visited her classroom. The author talked about how much fun it was to write stories and draw the pictures that go along with them. The author drew a picture that day. Alyse's fifth-grade teacher gave Alyse the author's illustration and told her that she was a good writer and that she should never stop writing. Alyse still has that illustration, and she followed her teacher's advice. Alyse has never stopped writing.



Alyse Sweeney



Alyse,
fifth grade

Inspiring illustration from author/illustrator's visit

Alyse mainly writes fictional stories about characters that have to solve problems. Some of her stories are based on real things that happened to her or her six-year-old twins. In a recent interview she said, "Sometimes I start with just a phrase, or a detail, or a single action, and like a seed, it grows into a story." For example, she and her husband once owned a restaurant. Alyse wrote *Magnificent Meatball Maker* on the basis of her experiences at the restaurant. She wanted readers to know about some of the funny, unexpected things that can happen in the kitchen of a restaurant. Alyse has written almost twenty books for the Learning A-Z family of websites.



Alyse lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, with her husband and two children. She has written more than thirty children's books, poems, articles, and stories.

Reading A-Z books

As you read one of Alyse's books, see if you can guess what experiences she may have had that planted the seed for writing it.

Collection of Author's Materials on Website Grows

We Pack a Picnic B
Grow, Vegetables, Grow! D
Grasshopper's Gross Lunch H
Terell's Taste Buds H
Mike's Good Bad Day I
Winter Vacation I
The Three Little Pigs I
Hannah's Townspeople J
Goldilocks and the Three Bears L
Goldilocks and the Other Three Bears L
Snow Camping M
The Three Little Pigs M
Goldilocks and the Three Bears P
Goldilocks and the Other Three Bears P
SPRAK! Q
Only One Aunt Maggie R
Magnificent Meatball Maker (Benchmark) U
The Outburst (Benchmark) V
Chick-a-Dude (Benchmark) W
and more ...

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

<p>What is the problem?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Who has the problem?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>How is the problem solved?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

INSTRUCTIONS: Have students answer the questions to describe the main problem and solution in the article.

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Where? _____	Where? _____
Draw:	Draw:
What happened? _____	How did it end? _____
Draw:	Draw:

INSTRUCTIONS: Have students answer the questions about the article above and then illustrate their responses.

Name _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Have students read (or read aloud to students) the *Meet the Author* article about Alyse Sweeney. After reading, discuss what helps Alyse write stories. As a class determine the main idea of the article, and then have students write details to support the main idea.

Main Idea
▼
Detail
▼
Detail

MEET A READING A-Z AUTHOR • ALYSE SWEENEY • 1

SKILL: MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS

Name _____ Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the *Meet the Author* article about Alyse Sweeney and then answer the questions on a separate piece of paper.

1. When did Alyse Sweeney get the idea that she could be a writer?
 - (a) in college
 - (b) in preschool
 - (c) in fifth grade
 - (d) when she was an adult
2. What event first helped Alyse to know she was a good writer?
 - (a) Her dog got into trouble.
 - (b) Her children did something funny.
 - (c) She and her husband opened a restaurant.
 - (d) Her teacher gave her a picture and told her she was a good writer.
3. Alyse gets most of the ideas for her stories from_____.
 - (a) other authors
 - (b) events in her life
 - (c) movies
 - (d) seeds and plants
4. What did the author talk about when she visited Alyse's school?
 - (a) Drawing is fun.
 - (b) Writing is very hard work.
 - (c) You need to write every day.
 - (d) Writing and drawing are fun.
5. What advice did Alyse's teacher give her?
 - (a) Never stop writing.
 - (b) Write only fiction stories.
 - (c) Write only about things that you know.
 - (d) Choose characters that solve problems.
6. **Extended Response:** If you were to write a book about something that happened in your life, what would be the title?

What event helped spark Alyse's interest in becoming an author?



(Elements of a Biography)

Divide the stories written by Alyse into categories. Which ones could have happened to Alyse or her family in real life?



(Classify)

Seed is to plant as idea is to _____.



(Vocabulary)

Describe how Alyse's fifth-grade teacher helped her become a professional author.



(Elements of a Biography)

Write a summary about what you might expect a story titled "Magnificent Meatball Maker" to be about.



(Prediction)



Research the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, where Alyse lives. Write a report about the city answering these questions: What is the city's population? What are some of the jobs people who live there have? What is the geography like around the city?



(Informational Report Writing)



If you were to write a book about a personal experience, what would the title be?



(Main Idea and Details)

After reading one of Alyse's stories, write a new solution to the main character's problem.



(Problem and Solution)