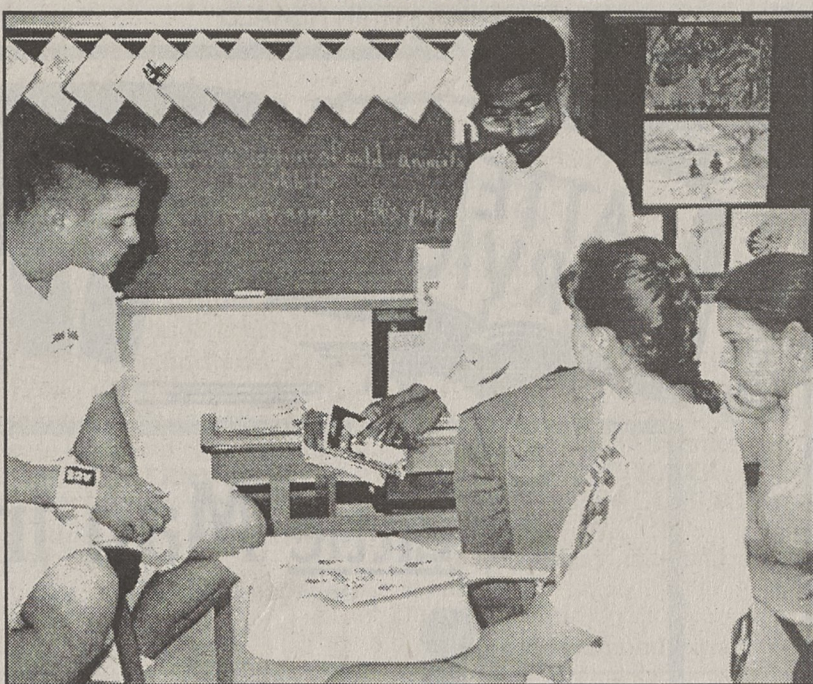


Christina Falls and Heather Adams share their pattern book "What Do You Hear?" Children, left to right, are Polly Etters, Troy Pennington, and Joseph Adkins.



Ron Harrill edits book by Freddy Gladden, Amanda Maples and Annie Walters. The riddle book was entitled "What Am I?"

Students share books with first graders

Annette Parker's sophomore writing class at Kings Mountain High School recently participated in an activity which demonstrated that writing can be a fun, creative, and product-oriented experience.

As an end of the year project, students embarked on an adventure which strengthened their own writing skills and brought joy to the first graders in Suzie Roberts' class at West Elementary School.

The assignment was to write and illustrate a children's book to be shared with young children in a first grade class. To create interest for the assignment, Parker invited Ron Harrill, a local writer of children's books, to speak with students about the writing process and the steps involved in actually publishing a book. Harrill is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University. He researches and lectures on the history of Africa and African people, noting that his extensive travel experiences have extended his sources of material for future books.

In a second visit to Parker's classroom, Harrill read and critiqued the students' books. As the project neared completion, students polished their final drafts, submitted their work to be laminated and bound, then practiced their oral presentation.

Twenty-three first graders ea-

gerly awaited the arrival of 15 high school students who would share their original books with them.

"The writing project was successful and well worth the time and energy extended by teachers and students," Parker said. "Ms. Roberts reports that her students were thrilled with the experience of having guests writers from the high school join them and were enthusiastic about the prospective of writing their own books someday soon."

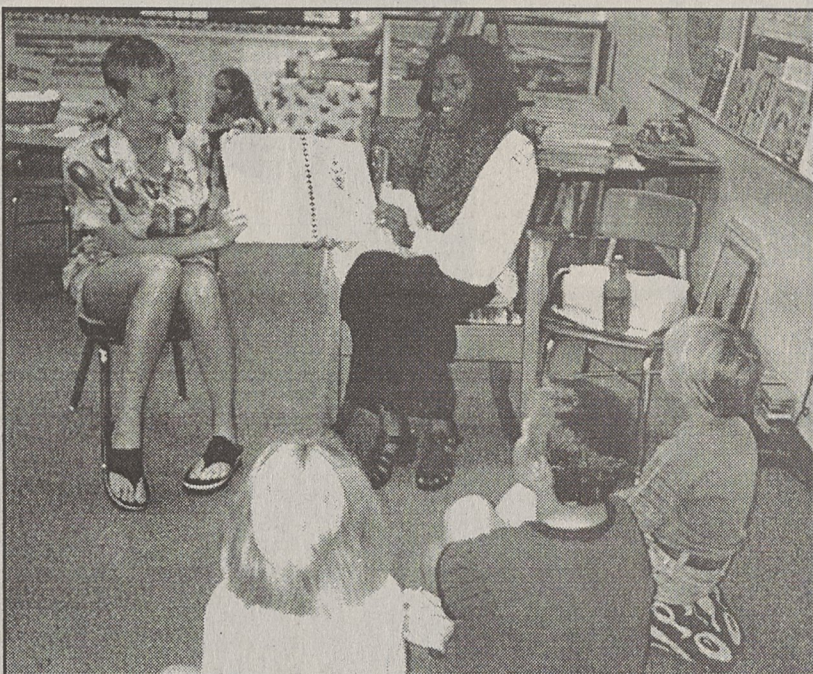
Brooke Baity, one of Roberts' first graders, commented that she liked the books which were read to her. "The one I really liked is Colors because I like to color, and I'm an artist, and I like colors."

Parker said many first graders were partial to the book entitled The Magic Teddy, a story which enabled the child holding the magic teddy bear to give a squeeze of the hand and be transported to distant lands.

Writing and sharing their books with an exuberant, receptive audience was a magical experience for the high school students. Ranata Wingo suggested that the project should be continued next year and expanded to include first graders at all Kings Mountain elementary schools.

"What did all the students engaged in the writing project learn?" asked Parker. "Styles of

writing? Perhaps. Types of children's books. Perhaps. That sharing a story can be a magical experience? Definitely! The writing project exemplifies education at its best."



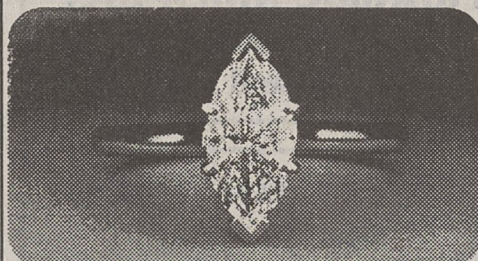
Christy Hamrick and Julius Curry consult with Annette Parker about needed changes in their book, "Brownie's Bad Behavior."



First graders Paul Philavong, Megan Ellis and Kelli Bolt enjoy a concept book entitled "Colors" by Ricky Watson.

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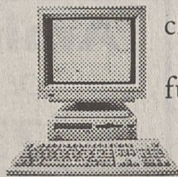
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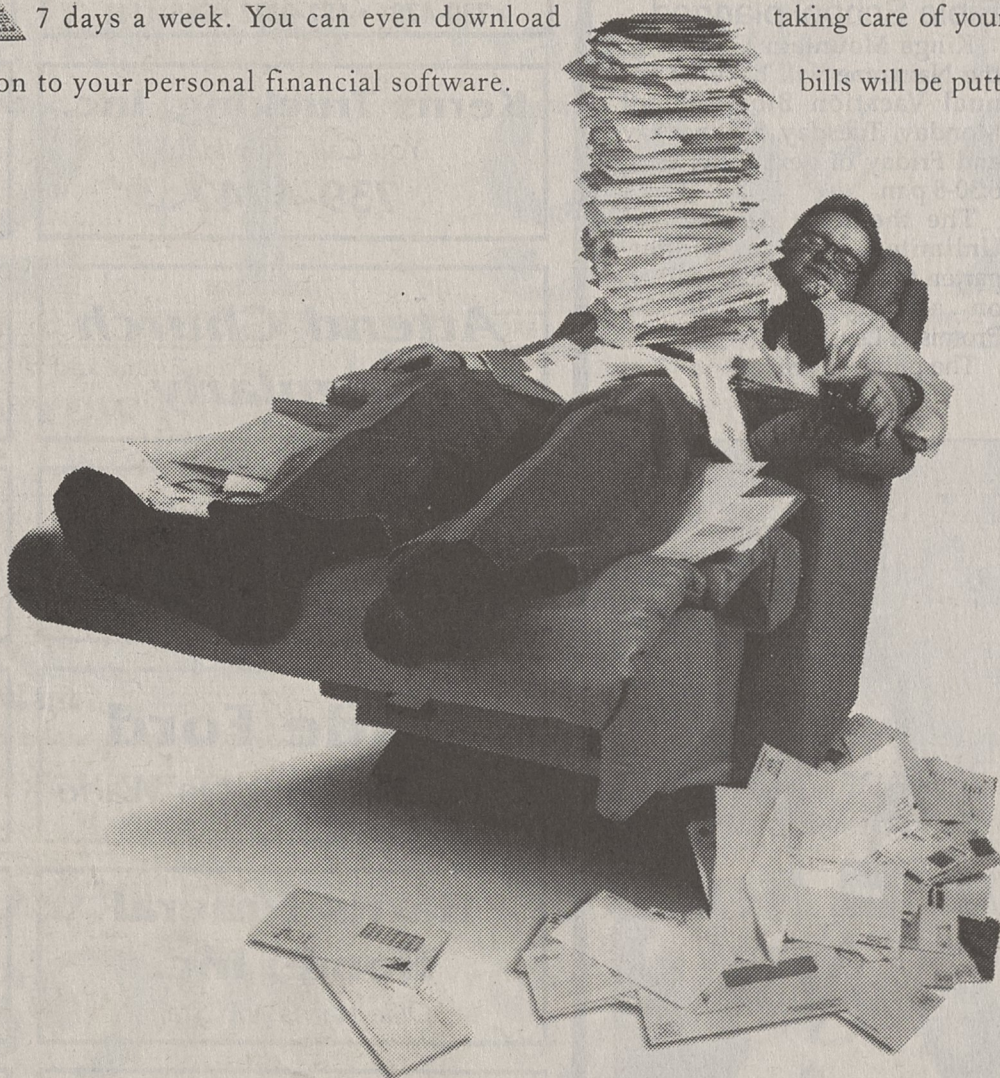
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