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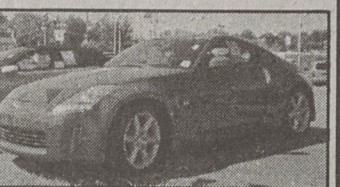
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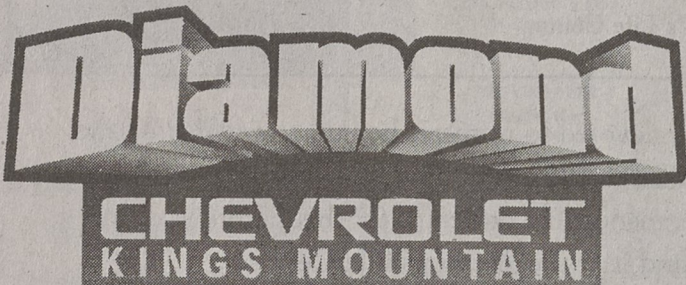


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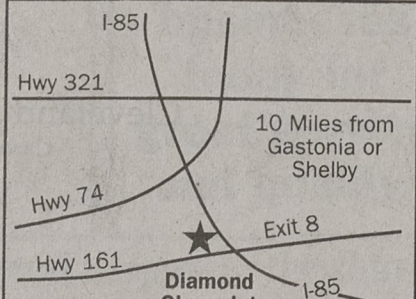


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ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Students in Jewell Kendrick's honors English class discuss the poem "Traveling Through the Dark."

Socratic seminar brings poem to life

ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Freshmen honors English students played out a scene from ancient Greece Monday morning. The students sat in three circles on the front lawn of Kings Mountain High School, discussing William Stafford's poem "Traveling Through the Dark."

Called a Socratic seminar, the exercise uses a teaching tool made famous by the Greek philosopher bearing its name. Instead of a teacher telling the groups what the poem means, they are given questions to discuss among themselves. The goal is to find the answers on their own.

Teacher Jewell Kendrick listened to the discussions only visiting if the group veered too far off track.

Before the exercise, students were instructed to read the poem, disagree without name calling, talk one at a time, listen to each other and remain on topic. There was no formal discussion leader.

The method appeared to work as one student caught herself possibly talking too

much. "I feel like I'm dominating the conversation," she said.

The poem told the story of a motorist hitting and killing a pregnant deer. The driver was left to wrestle over saving the fawn. The students asked questions about what the car, the deer and the driver represented as they sought a deeper meaning.

Theories, questions and comments flowed freely.

"It's easier to speak your mind without teachers," said Katherine Logan.

Her classmates agreed.

The students say no one broke the rule on name calling though they do admit to occasionally getting off the topic.

"Everybody respects everybody," Kelli Navey said.

Allowing the students freedom was easy for Kendrick. She described the class as motivated and eager for academic challenges.

"They're bright and vocal. I felt they could in small groups do it," she said.

West fourth graders share their heritage through pages of book

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Recipes for family favorites like homemade pizza and blueberry cream cheesecake, photos from a Disney vacation, poems about grandmothers and sisters - these and more bits and pieces of life can be found in the family heritage books made by fourth graders in Becky Williams classrooms at West School.

The books also contain autobiographies and stories about students' families.

Miranda Setzer wrote about her Nana and pasted in photos of her parents, Robin and Roger.

Taylor Cash shaped the cover of his book like a baseball mitt to honor his favorite sport. He wrote a tribute to his brother John Thomas.

Cameron Pittman drew a picture of his sister Destiny who helps him with math and reading.

Wendi Belt included ribbons from field day and a spelling bee. Photos of friends and family found their way into her book.

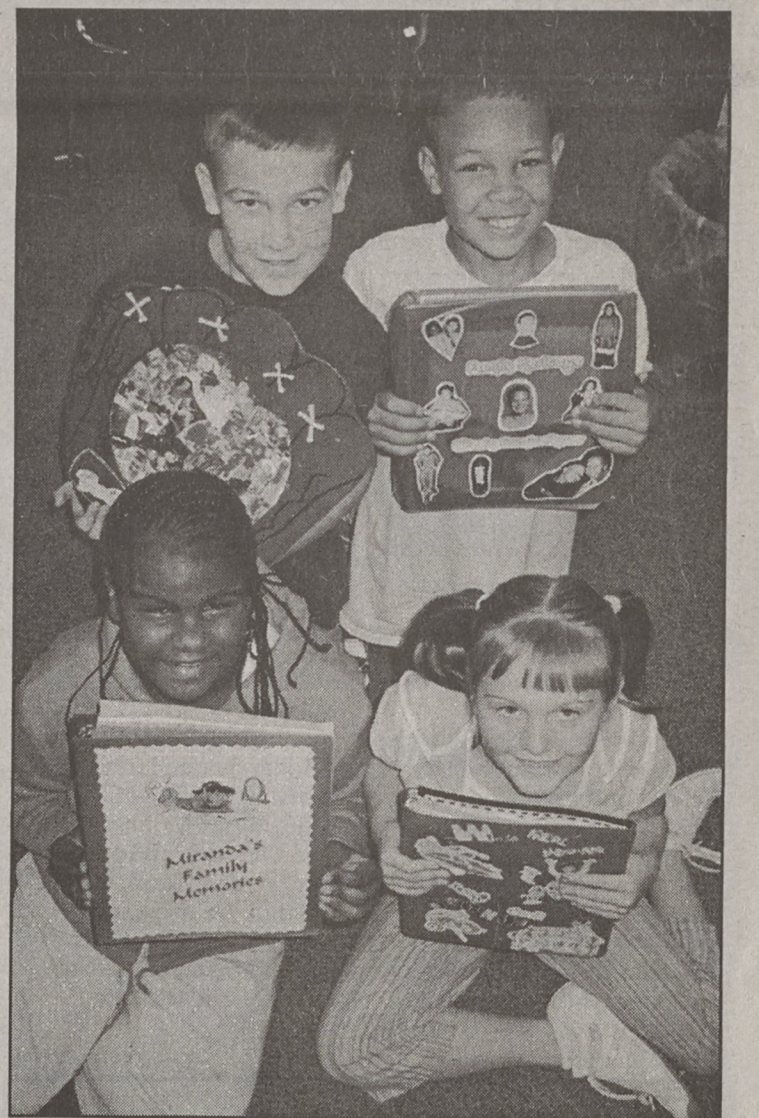
The students say making the books was hard work but also fun.

"You had to tell about your whole life," Cameron said.

"You have to go all the way back in the past," echoed classmate Taylor.

Many of the students included the exact time they were born, a fact they did not know before starting their research.

Writing the narrative



ANDIE BRYMER/ HERALD
Fourth graders Miranda Setzer (left, front), Wendi Belt, Taylor Cash (left, rear) and Cameron Pittman show off their family heritage books.

pieces was the hardest. The poems came the easiest the students say. Writing recipes and drawing were other highlights.

Williams explained that the writing helps prepare students for end of course testing.

"That was my major point in doing this," the teacher said.

Parents were invited to family night at the school Tuesday to look at the completed books and to share family recipes.

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