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FEATURED

## Children's book author visits third graders at North White

BY CHRISTEL MCINTOSH HJ correspondent

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Veronica Bartles, author of the young children's book titled, 'Twelve Steps' and the picture book titled 'The Princess and the Frogs' visited the third-grade students at North White, on Wednesday.

Bartles, who has been interested in book writing since she herself was in the second grade, spent most of her life wondering, What If? Which is how she came to put a twist on her fairy tale books.

She wrote her first non-published book in the second grade titled, 'My Magic Castle', which she brought along with her to show the students.

"It's so nice to be here and I am so excited! Today I wanted to talk to you about taking familiar stories and giving them a twist. My picture book, 'The Princess and the Frogs' is about a princess who wants a frog for a pet. Do you know the story of the Frog Prince, " Bartles asked?

The students raised their hands and answered her by explaining Disney's version of the story.

"So Disney took the original story of the Frog Princess and twisted it. And said, well, what if she wasn't a princess yet? Making her a princess after she kissed the frog, turning it into and prince, and once they married, then she became a princess."

"So I took the same story and I started thinking, "Well, what if the princess didn't want a prince at all?"

"What if she just wanted a frog?"

"And what if she found the perfect frog and was so excited and happy until she kissed him goodnight and he turned into a prince?"

"And what if she kept giving more and more frogs kisses and they all kept turning into princes. How would she find her happy ending, "Bartles asked?