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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Nancy Roop Presented "Book Joy for Neurodivergent or Developmentally Delayed Readers” at Michigan Reading Association’s Annual Conference.**

Lansing, MI – March 17, 2024

The author of a new release in children's books, "The Big Aquarium Adventure," is on a mission to empower young readers, especially those with learning differences like autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and more. Nancy Roop’s second appearance in speaking at the Michigan Reading Association’s annual conference, centered on Book Joy, by pealing back the layers of frustration that struggling readers have when they open a book.

The room in The Lansing Center was transformed into a neurodiverse-inclusive elementary classroom for about 50 participants. When educators entered, they were greeted with a welcome sign and list of to-dos as a warm up before class. They chose their job and voted on which of the 8 neurodivergent books on the table they wanted to read most. They practiced writing by filling out an entry form to win a copy of The Big Aquarium Adventure.

“Pre-lesson activities prime the learner’s brain for what is to come, so they are ready to encode the message into the learning centers of the brain. I shared tips on choosing books that are sensory-friendly and appealing to neurodivergent readers. But the main point was to immerse the participates into my safe-space classroom to gain a deep understanding of why neurodiverse kids struggle with emotional regulation, and why this impacts their ability to learn.” –Nancy Roop

I signed books in the Author’s Garden, and reconnected with Nandi Comer, Michigan’s Poet Laureate. “Nandi unknowing inspired me to base the Alex and Jordan Explore series on creative nonfiction. I took her Creative Writing class at Oakland University in 2019.” This style is usually reserved for adults writing for adults, but Roop uses this foundation to create books that are real, relatable, and relevant for emergent readers.

Michigan Reading Association’s 68th annual conference. The theme is Discovering Joy and aims to guide Michigan teachers, including reading specialists, and administrators in finding the joy in teaching and literacy.

In 2023, Roop was a vendor promoting a draft copy of The Big Aquarium Adventure. She gave away an Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) asking educators for feedback on structure and content. The book was far from finished, but it was a springboard to publish in 2024.

In 2022, she gave the presentation, Building an Equitable Learning Environment for Neurodiverse Students. By providing accommodations and modifications, students can access the curriculum. It also focused on supporting student’s emotional regulation, so they are ready to learn when they open a book, instead of becoming overwhelmed with anxiety. Many struggling readers feel dread when they haven’t had a chance to become comfortable with the book, or the level is too challenging.

Roop created a developmental book format for readers who need more practice with learning how to read chapter books. The first book in the Alex and Jordan Explore series dives into the world of marine life while subtly embedding learning strategies that build comprehension, self-regulation, and confidence.  
  
"*The Big Aquarium Adventure*" is more than just a book, it's a gateway to the joy of reading and the confidence to navigate the world with ease. For fourth and fifth graders (and anyone who loves a good underwater adventure!), it's the perfect companion for exploring ocean wonders, learning vital skills, and discovering the magic within themselves.”

Educators and parents can go to nancyroop.com and stay for free resources with Quick Tips, downloadable activities, and engage with Alex and Jordan on their Message Board.

"The Big Aquarium Adventure; Learn About Frogs, Fish, Turtles, Sharks and Skates!"is available in paperback and hardback at all major online retailers, or spiral bound at nancyroop.com/shop.

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Spiral bound $16.99 is at nancyroop.com/shop

**Nancy Roop,** Author, promotes neurodiversity and inclusion by publishing developmental books and speaking at educational conferences—*or to anyone, anywhere*. She is also a favorite Substitute Teacher in local Special Ed classrooms. Roop lives with her family near Detroit, Michigan and has a BA in Integrative Studies from Oakland University. Her thesis, Developmental Texts for Students with Autism; a Safe Space in the Written World, is available at DevelopmentalTexts.com.

**Developmental Texts**, LLC, publishes developmental books for children and was founded by Nancy Roop in 2022. A strong online presence includes educational resources for parents and educators, and the Alex and Jordan Message Board for kids. *The Big Aquarium Adventure: Learn about Fogs, Fish, turtles, Sharks, and Skates*, is Developmental Texts’ debut book.

**Nandi Comer, Michigan’s Poet Laureate**

<https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/public/poet-laureate>

**Michigan Reading Association’s** goals are to create partnerships with other state organizations, while continuing to be the "go to" organization for educational issues regarding literacy, and providing ongoing, sustainable professional development to the educators in Michigan.

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