



Authors in April 2020 – SHINE! Rochester!



Authors in April was thrilled to bring the dynamic duo, **J.J. and Chris Grabenstein**, to our community, virtually. Over 3,000 4th and 5th graders in the Rochester, Michigan community experienced their debut book together, **SHINE!**



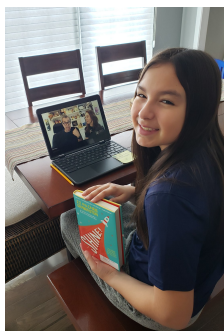
SHINE! gave students the opportunity to explore the question, “Who do you want to be?”, from the standpoint of their inner character.

Students used the book SHINE! to express who they are through art.



Students “stepped inside” each SHINE! character, learning the value of recognizing what you see on the outside is often a reflection of what you don’t see that is happening on the inside. This created an empathic response to many of the characters.

SHINE! is full of references to astronomy, music, magic tricks and more. This gave our students the chance to research areas of interest using best sourcing practices. At our community STEM fair, children of all ages enjoyed learning about constellations mentioned in the book and creating their own!



What a thrill it was to have J.J. and Chris Grabenstein join our schools virtually to answer questions and share insights on how this fabulous book was created.

“SHINE! is a story full of humor and wonderful messages. SHINE! generates positive discussions, self-exploration, and inspiration to do the right thing, even when no one is looking. This is a book every child should read!” – Lisa Wattai, Authors in April

“My students were able to see themselves in the characters of Shine! We laughed with Kwame who used humor to uplift every situation. We cheered on Piper who liked to blend in, but truly shined helping others. We also recognized the honest portrayal of Ainsley, the pushed-to-succeed mean girl. Having this book to teach personal character traits and the idea of “Who do you want to be? And not when you grow up. Right here, right now.” allowed for discussions and activities that students could deeply reflect on. Quotes throughout the book were easily used and incorporated into Visible Thinking Routines allowing for deeper understanding. Students everywhere will “Shine On!” recognizing their own talents long after relishing the satisfying ending of this touching novel.” - Tammy Posner, MLIS Media Specialist, Rochester Community Schools

SHINE! was a highlight of the year!