



**Theresa Mackiewicz**  
Workshops and PDs

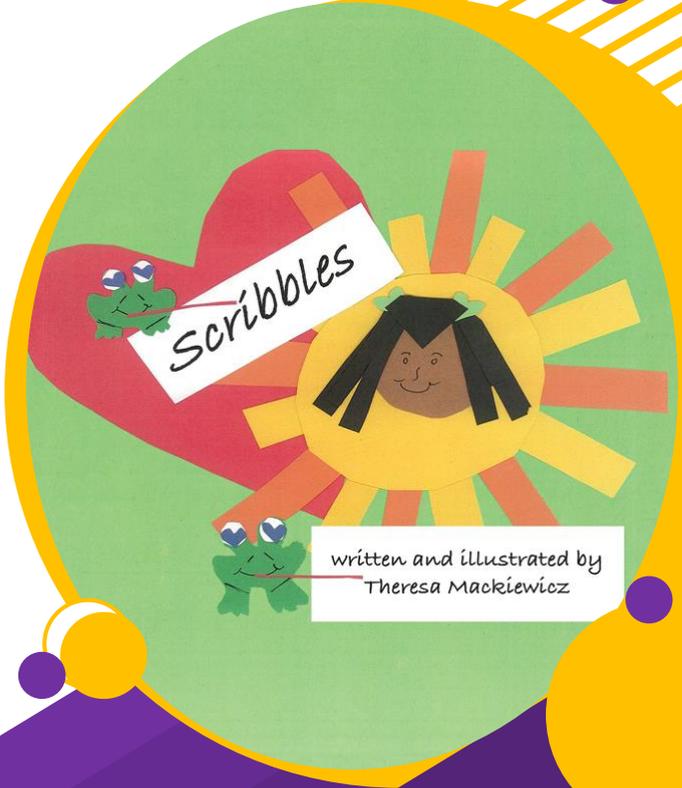
## Arts for Learning CT PROGRAM GUIDE

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

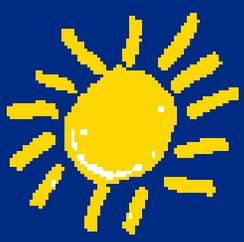
All my programs address how to support the students who struggle. If the students are on an IEP or just having a hard time in education due to their home life, Mrs. Sunshine will be able to support their needs!

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

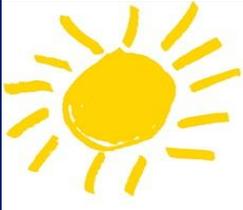
As a special education teacher, all of Theresa's art-integrated and literacy-based programs address how to support students who struggle and lack the confidence to move forward. Whether students lack confidence, are differently-abled, or have IEP or 504 plans, or are just plain a hard time in education due to their home life, Mrs. Sunshine will be able to support their needs. Theresa has written many books that she has developed into programming. Theresa also offers a range of different educational talks on many topics.



written and illustrated by  
Theresa Mackiewicz



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Arts for  
Learning  
Connecticut



# About the Artist & Program Preparations

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

After graduating from Bridgewater State University with a Bachelors of Science with a dual major of Sociology and Special Education, I had many exciting experiences. They range from teaching and designing educational programs to owning my own sign language business called Signing With Theresa. I always wanted to pursue a career in which I can fulfill my personal and professional goals. My goal is to support society's needs and the needs of the special education population.

Living the life as a special education student, I understand what my students felt like. I had had their struggles myself. I had a vision impairment in which I saw double for 30 years, yet I still made my education possible. Due to my experiences as a student, I hold a degree in the special education field and have compassion to move my students forward. I have written many books on special education topics from both my personal and teaching experiences. I will be releasing more of my educational books soon. Other educational titles include *Midnight Versus Sunshine* and *Best Buds for Life*.

## Why Do I Write?

My response is that I understand how the student feels who struggle in the classroom. If I can help a young student feel like they can accomplish their goal, then I have done my job in society. Since I cannot be in the classroom due to my Coast Guard family duties, then to stay true to my inner core, I must write for the students who struggle, teach the teachers how to teach students like me, and understand how to interact with these students. The students need to have their self-esteem picked up while they are in the struggle. They need the commitment from the educator and/or the educational system to care for them as their parents do. The educational system needs to be able to have the skills to teach our struggling population. I write to help the educational system, educator, and families who support these students. These students will conquer the world with the right tools. We need to supply these students and take their unique gifts and teach them from their level not what the standards say, but the authentic assessment we as an educator can have them reach themselves.

"Just Remember... close your eyes and dream... You will get there."  
Love Mrs. Sunshine.

## BOOKS BY THERESA

*Scribbles*

*Midnight Vs. Sunshine*

*Best Buds for Life!*

*Passion Land*

*Robbie and Eva*

*Bermuda Penny, My Father and Me*

*Kendra's 5<sup>th</sup> Sweet Tooth Birthday Party*

*Rainbow Pox*

*The Purple Puddle*

*The Boy Who Couldn't Fly*

## CURRICULAR LINKS

Source: Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.

**Writing Standard:** Text Types and Purposes, 1-3; Production and Distribution of Writing, 5; Range of Writing, 10.

**Speaking and Listening:** Comprehension and Collaboration, 1-3; Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas, 4-6.

**Language Standard:** Knowledge of Language, 3; Vocabulary Acquisition and Use, 4-6; Conventions of Standard English, 1-2



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