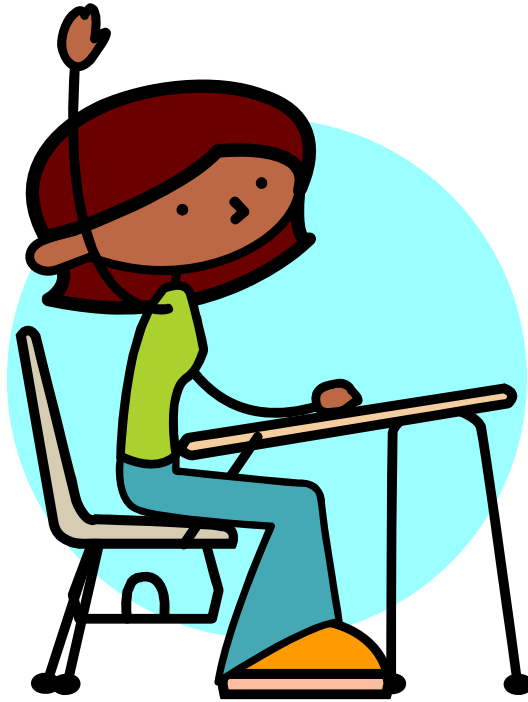


New Beginnings:

A Book about My Classmates and Me



By: Nancy Castor-Wegert

Table of Contents

Preface	II
Who Am I? Who I Am	1
My Favorite Room	2
What Education Means to Me	3
Who Are We? We Are Who We Are	4
Our House	5
What Education Means to Us	7

Preface

First of all this book is dedicated to my husband and children who are my life and are helping me to follow my dreams of finishing college and achieving greatness.

Hello to every one reading this. My name is Nancy Castor-Wegert and I wrote this book for my English 0301 class. This project was different than other projects that I have done for English classes before. This project gave me the chance to get to know my classmates and understand more about them than I normally would.

The peer criticism was also new. I had never worked on a project where I had the other students tell me what they liked and didn't like about my writing. I've always been a little afraid to share my work before, but sharing it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. It gave me a starting point for when I revised my papers to make the final project.

Revising the papers was the hardest part for me. Some of the papers I had to read over a few times to understand what I need to change, add or take away. On other papers I had a good starting point from some of the comments that the other students had made. I had a fun experience with this whole project, and I learned along the way.

One of the things that I learned is that everyone is alike in one way or another you just might have to look a little harder to find it. Another thing that I learned is that I can do anything if I just try. At first I wasn't sure if I would be able to take a full load of classes with all of the other stuff going on in my life, but I'm working hard and getting it done.

Thank you for reading my book and I hope that you have enjoyed it.

-Nancy Castor-Wegert

Who am I? Who I Am.

By: Nancy Castor-Wegert

Hello to you all. My name is Nancy and I am 23 years old, and my birthday is in October. I am a wife and a mother of four. My oldest is my step daughter Aimee and she's 13, Alexandria my daughter is 5, my son Aidan is 3 and my youngest little boy named Aric is 7 ½ months. We live out in La Vernia where we have cats, dogs, and horses. Sometimes other things come wondering into the yard as well. I'm originally from Augusta, Georgia, Home of the Master's Golf Tournament, where I've lived most of my life. I also spent one year out in California before I joined the military. I then came to Texas in late 2005 for military training, and decided to stay after I met my husband.

I have two part time jobs, only 8 hours week, have my guard duties once a month, and I go to school full time. I am currently majoring in biology, and hope to be either a teacher or a doctor. As a member of the National Guard I am a 68W which is a combat medic. I have my National Registry Emergency Medical Technician Basic (NREMT-B) license, and I'm also certified to work in the state of Texas as an EMT-Basic. In the military I can provide a lot more patient care than I can work as a civilian. My husband is also an EMT, but he's a Paramedic and works at Fort Sam Houston training new medics.

In our spare time my husband and I travel to Big Bend National Park and go hiking. We've hiked the tallest peak in the park, Emory Peak, and have also hiked around the South Rim. There are lots of places that I would like to visit, so I can't really name just one, but I am excited about an upcoming trip that we are making to the Texas coast. We are going to be going down to Mustang Island. I've never been to the coast in Texas so I want to see how, if it is, any different the than coast back in Georgia.

In my spare time also enjoy watching sports, college football is my favorite, working outside, and dancing. Normally I have to have background noise when I'm doing something so I have some music playing or a TV going in the background. I listen to all kinds of music, and have all types of stations plugged into my radio. My favorite kinds of movies and comedies and fantasy movies, and I watch a lot of children's movies too.

My Favorite Room

By: Nancy Castor-Wegert

My favorite room in the house is my living room. It's where we get to have our family time. Where everyone can come together and hang out, play games, watch movies, and have family over for company. From here you can smell the food from the kitchen cooking. There's a half wall with a bar top that separates the living room from the kitchen. You can also listen from the living room down the hall to make sure that the kids aren't running around too crazy. With all the kids we make sure that everything is spill proof and comfortable.

We have a sectional that is light colored suede on top and dark leather on the bottom and sides, and an ottoman in the center that is the same color and rectangular. Across from the sectional is the entertainment center, which hopefully I'll get to change soon, that is big, brown, and bulky. On the rough, beige walls we have pictures hanging. The one above the entertainment center is a map of old Texas in the 1850s and most of the rest of the pictures are of horses. We also have a table in the corner of the room for eating snacks at and playing games. On the other side of the couch is a corner for the kids' toys and the games.

So it's a space for everyone to do just about everything in, and that's why it's my favorite room.

What Education Means to Me

By: Nancy Castor-Wegert

What does education mean to me? It means a lot of things, growing, changing, and shaping you into the person that you want to be and know that you can be. When I was younger I really enjoyed school up until high school.

Once I started high school my freshman year was fine, but I started to get bored with my classes. My sophomore year I went less and less and the only reason why I went at all was because I really enjoyed being in the band. Finally I dropped out the first part of my junior year. I stayed at home and studied on my own awhile until I got my GED later on that year. When I got my GED it was a year earlier than I would have gotten my diploma.

After that I started working part time until I figured out what I wanted to do. I enrolled at a local college, but ended up not attending classes because I found out that I was pregnant. That was my past experience I school. I knew that it was important, but I just didn't feel like doing it, that it didn't apply to me. Now I know much better.

School now means the same thing to me as my future. It's going to take me where I want to go and turn me into the person that I want to be, and that I know I can be. Yes, I know that it's going to take a lot of work, but I know that in the end it's going to be all worth it.

Who We Are

By: Nancy Castor-Wegert

Who are we? We're not just a random group of people, but a group of people put together to help each other. Some of us are from Texas and some of us aren't, but we are all from the USA. We all want to help others by furthering our education whether it's our family or those around us in our community. Whatever it is that we want to be gives us the ability to help others in there lives.

We are all parents striving to make things better for our families, and show them the greatness that they can achieve if they try. Finally we are all one group, put together to help each other find commonalities so that we can all succeed in this class.

Jeremy

Sapphirra

Maria

Michael

Arianna

Nancy

Our Home



By: The Sun Group
Organized By: Nancy Castor-Wegert

My Home has an entryway with an eight-foot high glass door. In my kitchen is where everything happens and of course where we eat. Whenever, you walk into my house the smell of food will fill you. No matter what day of the week or time of day you will always find at least a few people in the kitchen, wheatear they are talking or eating, whatever it may be. In the middle of the kitchen there is an island table with four stools, next to that, there is a dinning table with four chairs, and right behind it there is a bay window with pillows and a soft Cochin.

Whenever we have parties at my house we all stay in the kitchen, because that is where the food, the drinks, the good conversation is. Another great thing is that you can look into the living room and you can also see the front door font wherever you are standing.

This room has lots of memories and is the main artery of our home. It's a place where we all love to relax and unwind, a place where we come together everyday as a family. It's where we get to have our family time. Where everyone can come together and hang out, play games, watch movies, and have family over for company. It has lots of windows that tower down from the ceiling to the floor. It has a cozy fireplace that brings us warmth in the winters. Over the fireplace is a very modern mantle that holds lots of family photos. On the walls we have pictures hanging. The one above the entertainment center is a map of old Texas in the 1850s and most of the rest of the pictures are of horses.

With its huge entertainment center on the left side of the room, we at times cuddle up on the plushy oversized pillows of the sofa to watch a movie or just relax with a book. We have a sectional that is light colored suede on top and dark leather on the bottom and sides with an ottoman in the center that is the same color and rectangular. In the middle of the room, between the sofa and the entertainment center, is a large wooden chest that serves as a storage and coffee table. Inside it holds throw blankets and games for the family.

One of our favorite games to play is the never-ending game of Monopoly. We also have a table in the corner of the room for eating snacks at and playing games. On the other side of the couch is a corner for the kids' toys and the games. So it's a space for everyone to do just about everything in, and that's why it's my favorite room. You will always find someone in this room; it never is empty and is always busy.

There is a staircase to the right. There are seven steps leading to the landing. You then go up seven more steps until you reach the upstairs hallway. My room is my sanctuary. It is where I can lock my kids out. It is where I can relax. On the door is an art piece made by my son. The art piece has his two hand prints and with a saying, " I love you" in red paint.

The bedroom is 10 x 12. In my room, I have a queen size, pillow top, cashmere fiber bed. Over the sheets I top my bed with a mink blanket of wolves in the snow that I purchased when I was stationed in Korea so many years ago. Under the sheets I have a memory foam pad over the pillow top mattress. I love pillows. My bed has ten pillows on it. I have two huge purple and tan striped pillows. I have two purple and tan decorative pillows. I have two purple pillow shamed pillows. I have two tan pillow cased pillows, as well as, two pink pillows. My bed is turned sideways so that the room opens up. I have a wide double window which is covered with two black full size sheets, to keep the sunlight out. I keep a stack of magazines and books by my favorite author H.P. Lovecraft on my nightstand. (Yes I know I'm old before my time.) My son's bed is about two feet away from my bed. His bed was once a blond wooded crib which I converted into a daybed. His bed is decorated with spider man sheets and covers. He, also, likes Scooby-doo. He has a Scooby-doo pillow and plush toy on his bed.

Next to his bed about a foot away, sits an old organ bench that is used now as a table for the old computer and a brown wooden desk and chair that need new coats of varnish where I study. I light the candle to help me relax when I lye down to do school work. I have a walk in closet with chest of drawers, other sets of drawers, a spider man toy box and other things stored away.

From the comfortable chair of velvet plush that looks like it has seen too many super bowls, where I sit and play my play station and watch my football. The wall closest to the hallway, sits a wood entertainment center case with a 23 inch television, DVD player, a lamp and a candle.

I have my room decorated with lamps and pictures of wolves which I find very comforting due to my love of the majestic wolf. I also have a big window that leads into my back yard where I can watch my kids play on their swing set and slide out of their clubhouse. They really enjoy running with the dogs too. My room isn't much but this is where I like to go to retreat from some of my day's frustrations.

If you walked outside my door, you would feel the moist, warm air hit your lungs. Passing by the black, heavy, solid metal door, you step down onto the hard slab where your bare feet cool as the concrete meets the sole. Continuing to walk again you feel the early morning dew on the grass between the toes.

Looking over your left shoulder you could see the six panel garage door with the shadow of the sunrise going by. Turning around the first thing you notice is the height of the two story brick home. Your eye is then drawn to the ridge line of the asphalt shingle roof. Studying the house you notice the red brick, imperfectly tumbled brick stacked neatly in a row. Above the brick on the overhang from the roof there is white painted trim to match the three pillars on the porch. The porch is large enough to have a table and chairs for sipping lemonade on a hot summer day. On the west end of the home above the garage two windows are drawn out from the brick face, accenting once again the trim and paint that match the pillars, soffet and facia.

Moving your eyes from the garage area there are two windows on the east side of the black door under the covered porch. Above the covered patio there are three windows two of which are flush with the brick on the right side. The far left window pops out and is trimmed with the same product as the trim and paint.

The landscaping is neat and trimmed with dark mulch laid in a sweeping motion from the drive way around the left side of the house. Bushes are planted four in a row in the middle of the mulched bark. One lonesome tree sits in the midst of the bushes.



What Education Means to Us

By: Nancy Castor-Wegert

Each of us has had our different experiences with education in the past that have affected why we have decided to wait until now to start our college experience. Now though we all know that education is our future. Education empowers us to have better choices and be able to make better choices with what we have. It also enables us to provide better for ourselves, our families and others that we care about, and make things happen that we never thought could happen.

