



## Monthly Newsletter

Issue 27: November 2015

### News Updates

**Are you waiting for break to apply for ISI?** Make sure you do so! Applications are due **January 15**. Interested educators can apply now by going to [middletnwritingproject.org](http://middletnwritingproject.org) and clicking on the “ISI” tab. Curious about what ISI can do for you? Check out our website!

**January Saturday Seminar** is on the 30th from 9:00-noon. Join Leslie Trail as she demonstrates strategies she uses in her own classes at Eagleville High School to help her students understand and process complex non-fiction texts. Targeted for secondary teachers (ELA or content area) but teachers at all levels are welcome. Register at [www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development](http://www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development). Send purchase orders to PO Box 213 MTSU 1301 E. Main St. Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

*From all of us here at the Middle Tennessee Writing Project, we'd like to wish you an excellent, relaxing, and restorative winter break.*

### Teacher Feature

Jennifer Stephens (ISI 2014) teaches 5th grade Language Arts and Social Studies at Westhills Elementary School in Lewisburg. One of her favorite aspects of teaching is knowing that each day she is changing her students' lives in some way and they are changing her life, too. She loves to read to her students, *Among the Hidden* (Margaret Peterson Haddix) being an all-time favorite, and her love of reading often positively changes her students' minds about reading.

After attending ISI, she began a modified writer's workshop in her classroom which caused even her most reluctant writers to ask for more writing time.

After developing several pieces of writing, the students use their own writing in their English language lessons, editing their writing based on their

newly acquired understanding of grammar and usage. This use of authentic grammar instruction and the writer's workshop have changed her workshop for the better!

Jennifer is the youngest of three children and loves spending time with her family, especially her nieces and nephews.

