

I-Beam: Interview with a Mentor, Lacey Lipe



Background: English Degree, some graduate work in creative arts. Former English Teacher at Savannah H.S., Savannah, GA. I-Beam Mentor for 4 years (her student is moving onto middle school). Mamie P. Whiteside's I-Beam Program

Motivation to Volunteer for I-Beam

"I loved teaching and initially thought of I-Beam as a way to utilize my teaching background but once I started it became much more than that. The first couple years I didn't use anything from my teaching background. My student really wanted to draw with me after reading. After a while with my student, I became more motivated to have her love reading and for her to not feel like it was a chore; rather something to love."



Your Reading Buddy

"She is amazing. The first teacher she had when I was a mentor was very organized and allowed us to do follow up activity to check on comprehension. She loved it. I learned to color a lot too even though I am not very good at it. We then moved from drawing pictures to discuss the characters that she was reading about and we would re-write the story to relate to herself and her life. This really helped develop a higher level of thinking. As we kept on, her confidence really emerged, particularly her self-esteem. I am so proud of her."

Experience with I-Beam.

"It's been great! It's my favorite day of the week to see my reading buddy and to see her smile when we connect. It's much better than teaching because of the one on one that you get. As a teacher, I just didn't have the time for that individual attention. To be able to connect with your student, have that one on one."

Overall...

What an experience! I had the same student from 2nd grade thru the 5th grade and was able to see her move from a child at risk (with reading) to one that can now read nearly any text book or school library book with enthusiasm.

