

Student Author Sells Thousands of Books



Do you know many ten-year-olds who have written a book that's sold thousands of copies around the world? If you don't know any kids like that... meet fourth-grader Alec Greven (say GRAY-ven). Alec's first book, *How to Talk to Girls*, has sold tens of thousands of copies. It has been printed in 17 languages.

Alec's writing career began in third grade. He and his classmates could write about anything they wanted during "independent writing time." When Alec noticed how boys and girls didn't always get along on the playground, he talked with friends about how they got girls to like them. He wrote about what he learned in his book *How to Talk to Girls*.

Alec's teacher liked the book, so she shared it with other teachers. The librarian at Alec's school made copies of the book and sold it at the school book fair for \$3 a copy. Soon there were stories about Alec in newspapers and on the TV news. Talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres heard about Alec and invited him to appear on her show. She hooked Alec up with a publisher who liked his book. A few months later Alec was a published author.

NEWS WORD BOX

independent noticed
publish organize
donated inspired

Alec's success has inspired other kids to write. He helped organize a writing contest at his school. Almost one-third of the students entered. He even gave out writing awards at school.

MORE FACTS ABOUT ALEC GREVEN

- Alec likes to read a lot. Often he is reading two or three books at a time.
- Alec followed up his first book with two others, *How to Talk to Moms* and *How to Talk to Dads*. His fourth book, *How to Talk to Santa*, will be in bookstores this fall.
- Alec donated some of the money his books made to the charity Stand Up to Cancer.
- Watch a video interview with Alec at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28038281/>

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Alec is thinking about writing a book called *How to Talk to Teachers*. What advice would you suggest that Alec include in that book?