

# Publishing Classroom Work

Erica Marsh



# About Me



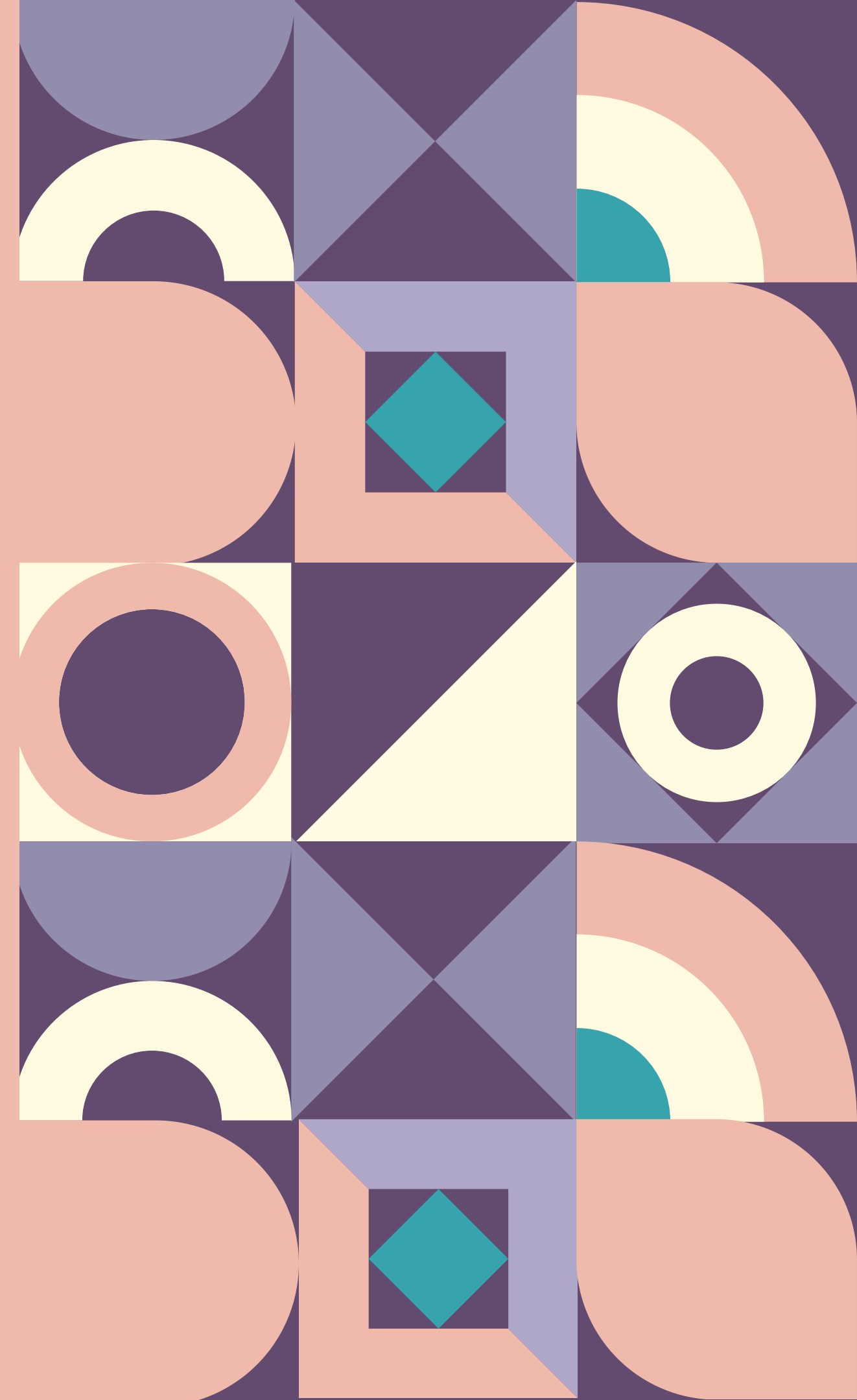
- Former teacher
- Co-owner of an independent bookstore
- Co-Creator of Voices of Home (community-published book)

What if student work didn't just get graded...

# How It Started

## The Inspiration Behind Voices of Home

- Worked in community theatre
- Attended a poetry session led by Phillip Shabazz
- My sister and I wondered, "What if we collected and published the voices of our community?"



# My Project

## Voices of Home

- Community-based book project
- Collected writing, art, and photography
- Published as a real, printed book



# Why This Matters

Why publish classroom work?



Builds student  
ownership

Increases  
engagement

Creates lasting  
keepsakes

Connects school + community

# Tools I Used



**Canva.com**

page & cover design  
Free and beginner-friendly

**Lulu.com**

printing  
Only pay cost of printing



Not the only options—just what worked well for me



# The 5-Step Process

## A Simple Framework

1. Collect
2. Curate
3. Format
4. Design
5. Print



# Step 1: Collect

## Gather Student Work

- Flexible for any grade level
- Writing, art, photography

## Methods

- Google Forms (easy + organized)
- School online platforms (Canvas, Google Classroom, etc.)
- Physical work can be scanned (phone, copier, print shop)

A decorative vertical panel on the left side of the slide, featuring a grid of geometric shapes in teal, purple, yellow, and orange. The shapes include circles, squares, diamonds, and semi-circles, some with concentric patterns.

# Step 2: Curate

## Select & Organize

- Decide what goes into the book
- Manage multiple submissions
- Track contributors

# Step 3: Format

## Build the Interior Pages

- Choose book size **first**
  - Choose a size that matches your project.
  - Picture books, journals, anthologies, planners, and novels all have different sizes.
- Use Lulu.com for dimensions

BOOK SIZE

**Square**

PAGE COUNT

**32**

BINDING TYPE

**Paperback Perfect Bound**

INTERIOR COLOR

**Standard Color**

PAPER TYPE

**60# White — Uncoated**

COVER FINISH

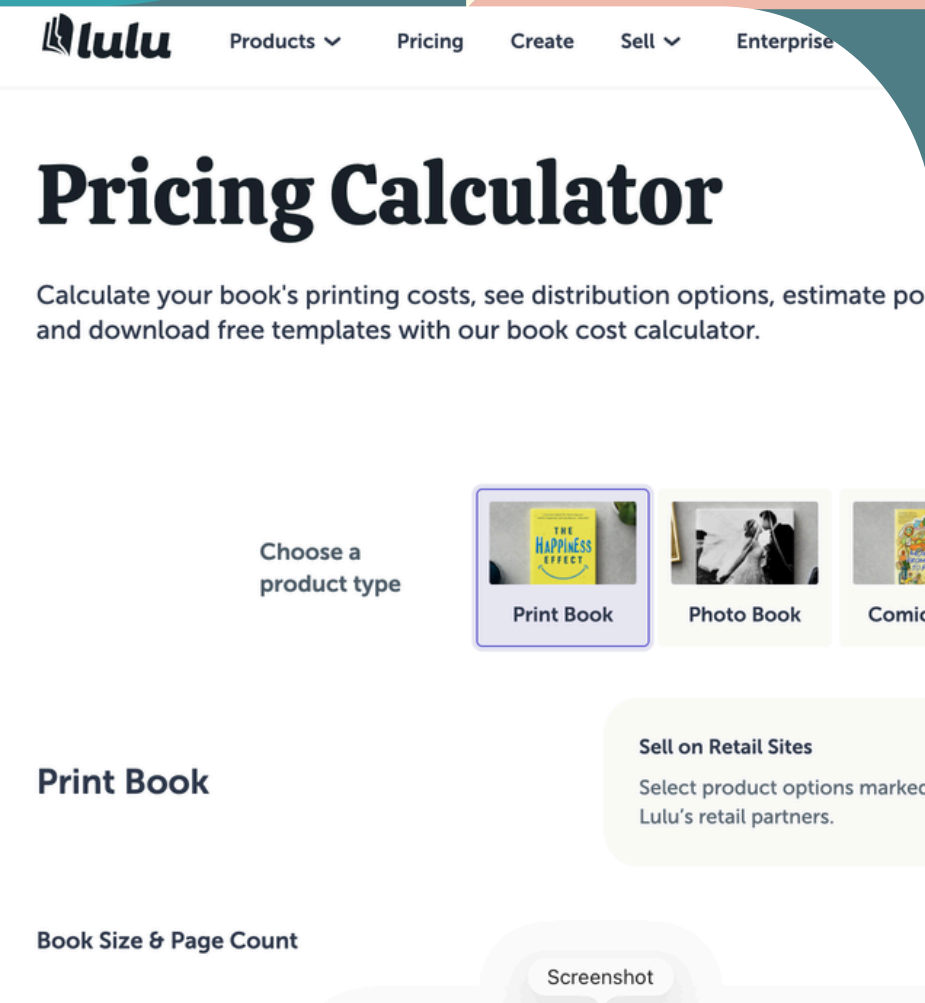
**Matte**

↓ **Book Templates**

↓ **Custom Cover Template**

**3.96** USD

per Print Book



The screenshot shows the Lulu Pricing Calculator interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Lulu logo and links for Products, Pricing, Create, Sell, and Enterprise. Below the navigation bar is the title "Pricing Calculator" and a sub-header "Calculate your book's printing costs, see distribution options, estimate pot and download free templates with our book cost calculator." Underneath, there is a section titled "Choose a product type" with three options: "Print Book" (selected), "Photo Book", and "Comic". Below this, there is a section titled "Print Book" with a sub-section "Sell on Retail Sites" that says "Select product options marked Lulu's retail partners." At the bottom, there is a section titled "Book Size & Page Count" with a "Screenshot" button.

Create a  
Custom  
Design in  
canva.



## INTERIOR

**TOTAL DOCUMENT SIZE (WITH BLEED)**  
8.75" x 8.75" (222mm x 222mm)

**BOOK TRIM SIZE (SQUARE)**  
8.5" x 8.5" (216mm x 216mm)

**SAFETY MARGIN (FROM TRIM EDGE)**  
0.5" (12.7mm)

**BLEED AREA (FROM TRIM EDGE)**  
0.125" (3.18mm)

"With Bleed"  
parts of the page  
that will be cut off

SAFETY MARGIN


TRIM / BLEED AREA

# Create a design

## Custom size

- For you
- Presentations
- Social media
- Photo editor
- Videos
- Print
- Docs
- Whiteboards
- Sheets
- Code New
- Websites
- Emails







 Custom size

Width	Height	Units
<input type="text" value="8.75"/>	<input type="text" value="8.75"/>	<input type="text" value="in"/> 



Create new design

### Recent

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  1920 × 1080 px |  8.5 × 11 in  |
|  2 × 3 in       |  2.25 × 1 in  |
|  4 × 6 in     |  24 × 36 in |

A decorative vertical panel on the left side of the slide, featuring a grid of geometric shapes in teal, purple, and yellow. The shapes include circles, squares, and diamonds, some with concentric patterns or solid colors. The background of the slide is a solid teal color.

# Step 3: Format

Once you create your design, add your content.

- Scanned pictures
- Text boxes

Remember, you are the editor, so this is where the quality comes in.

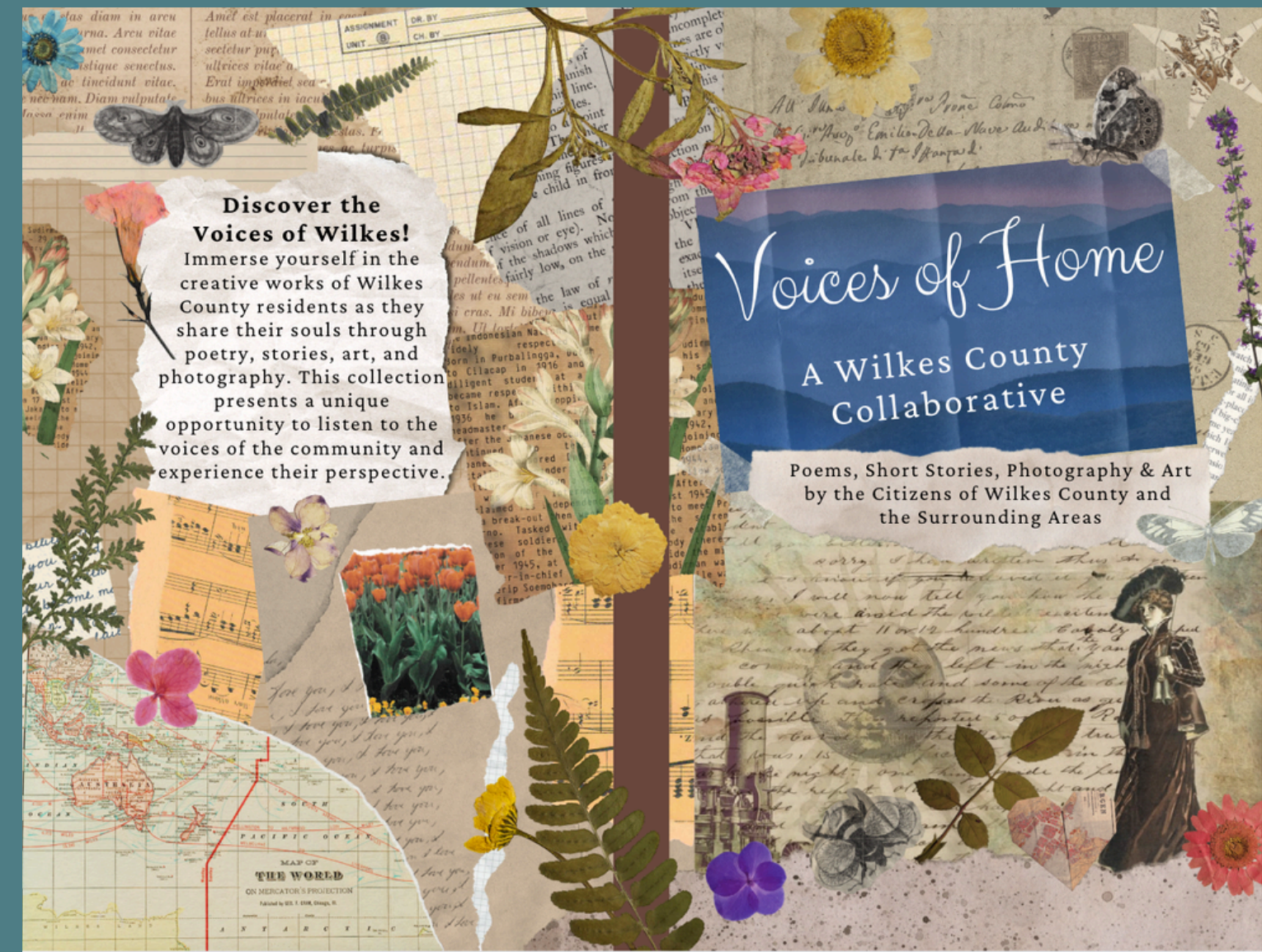
(Extra tip, the students can be the editors!)

# Step 4: Cover Design

## Create the Cover

- Separate file (front + spine + back)
- Spine size depends on page count
- Front cover is on the RIGHT side

This is when it starts to  
feel like a real book





### BACK COVER

**SAFETY MARGIN** (FROM TRIM EDGE)  
0.5" (12.7mm)

**BLEED AREA** (FROM TRIM EDGE)  
0.125" (3.18mm)

**BARCODE AREA** (OPTIONAL)  
3.625" x 1.25" (92mm x 32mm)  
0.5" (12.7mm) (FROM TRIM EDGE)

BARCODE AREA



### FRONT COVER

**TOTAL DOCUMENT SIZE (WITH BLEED)**  
17.38" x 8.75" (438mm x 222mm)

**BOOK TRIM SIZE (SQUARE)**  
8.5" x 8.5" (216mm x 216mm)

**SPINE AREA**  
Paperback Perfect Bound  
Minimum Pages: 32  
Minimum Spine Width: 0.1321" (3.35mm)  
(DOCUMENT PRESET)

TRIM / BLEED AREA  
SAFETY MARGIN

TRIM / BLEED AREA  
SAFETY MARGIN

SAFETY MARGIN  
TRIM / BLEED AREA

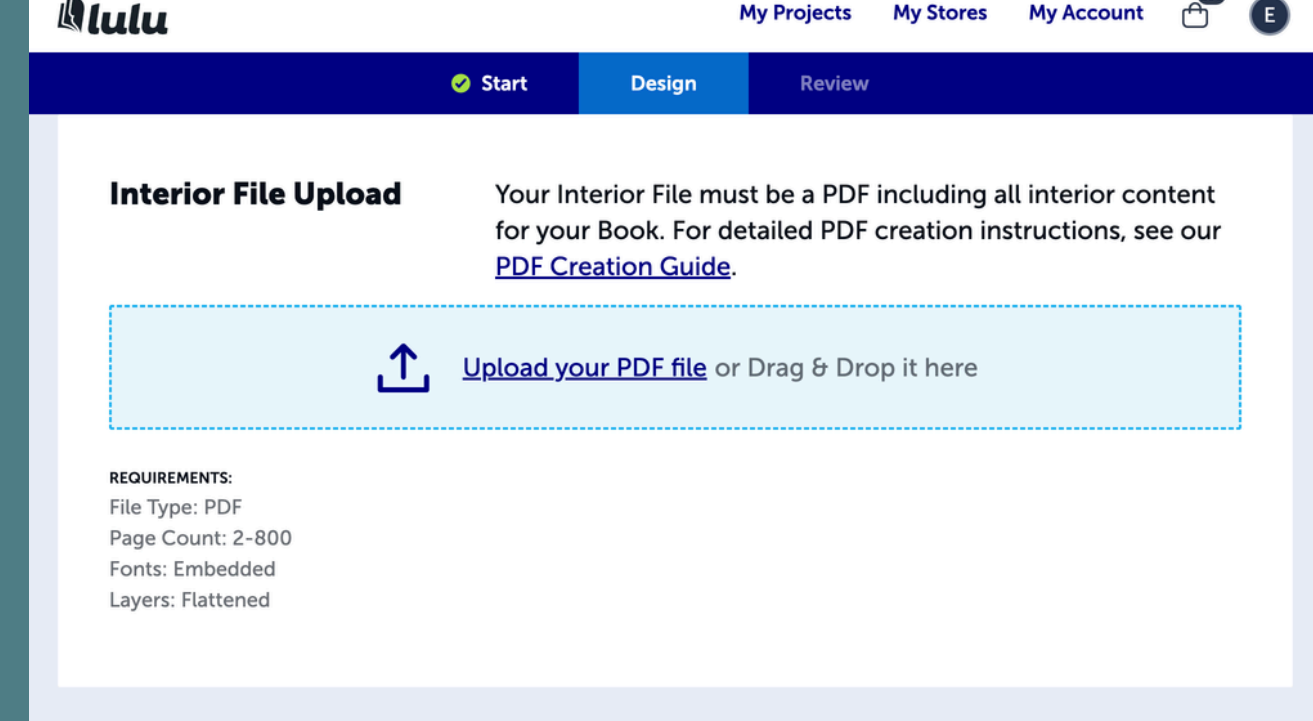
SAFETY MARGIN  
TRIM / BLEED AREA

# Step 5: Print

## Upload & Order

- Export as PDF (no crop marks needed)
- Upload to Lulu.com
- Choose binding + paper (These you would have already picked out to get the correct dimensions.)
- Order as many (or few) as you need

You can re-upload files before printing if edits are needed.  
Take your time in the final review stage



# More Than Just Books

## Other Formats Available

- Comic books
- Photo books
- Yearbooks
- Magazines
- Calendars
- E-books

All available through [Lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com)

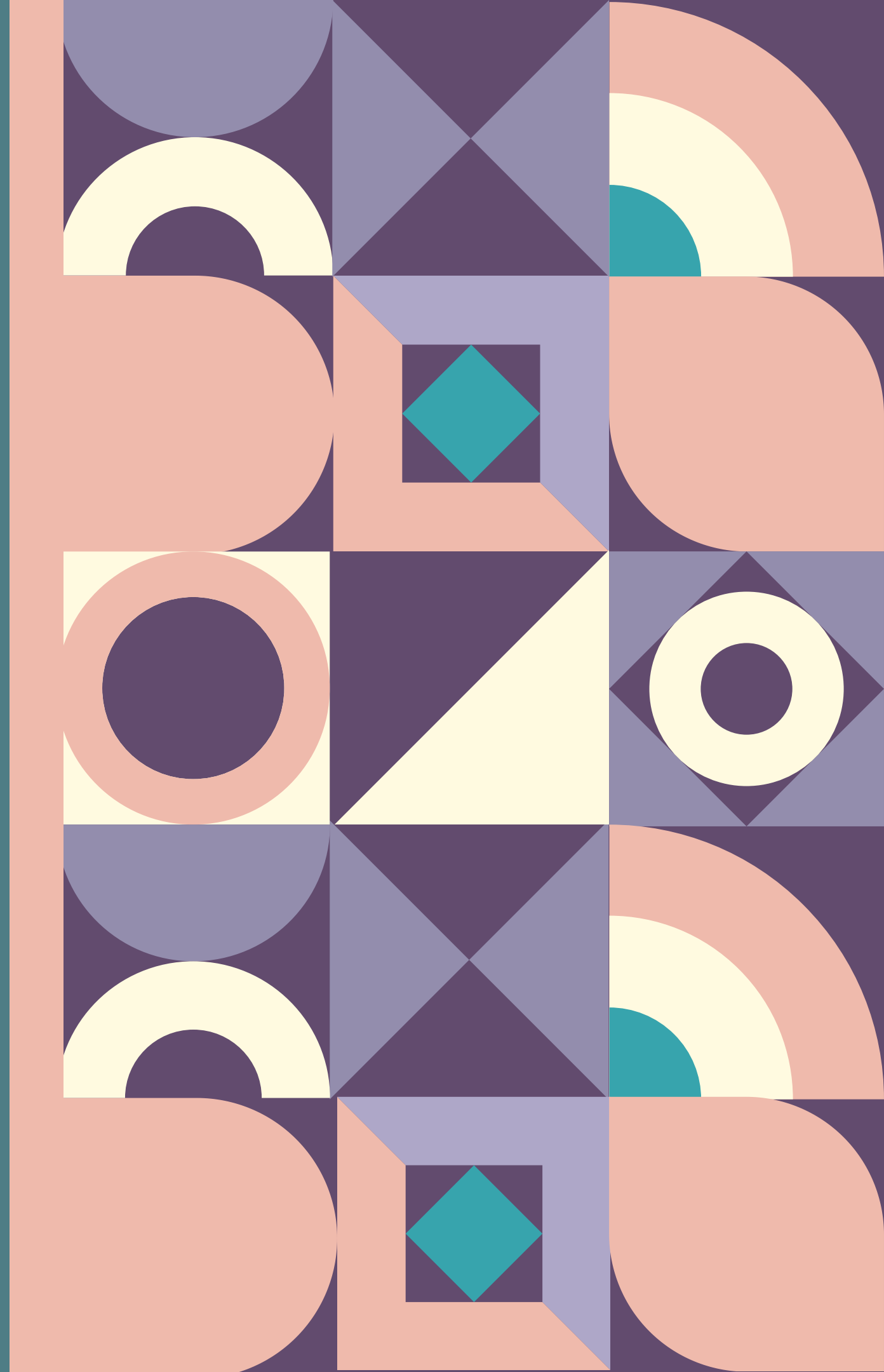
- 👉 Same process—just different formats
- 👉 Start simple → expand later

# How This Looks in the Classroom

## Different Ways to Use This

- Whole-class book
- Student anthology
- Individual student books
- Fundraiser projects

This process is flexible





## One Story, One Book

- Class writes a story together
- Students illustrate
- One finished product

Great for younger grades

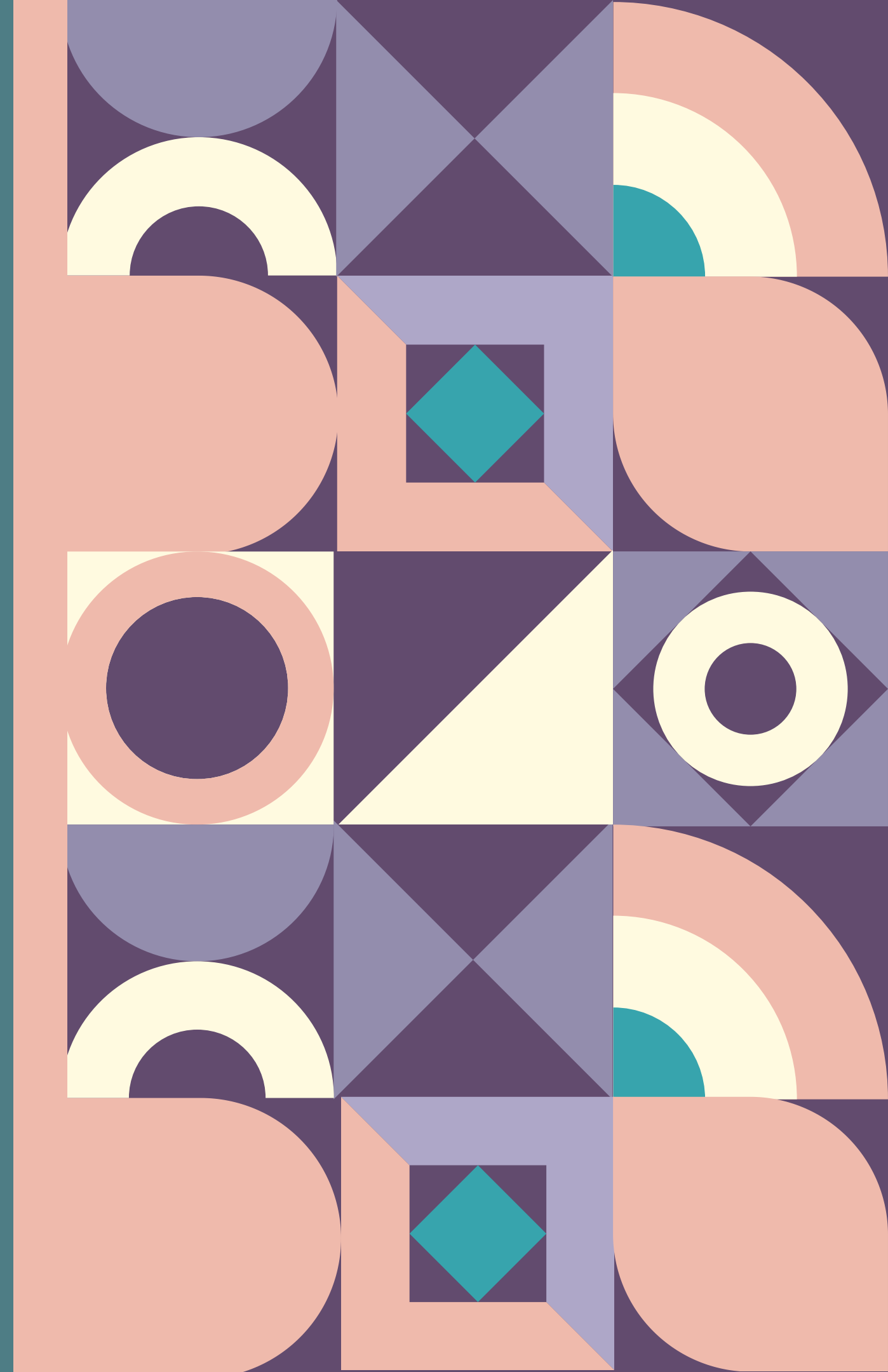
# Whole-Class Book

# Student Anthology

## Everyone Contributes

- Each student submits work
- Combined into one book

Mirrors real-world publishing



# Individual Books

## One Book Per Student

- Portfolio-style project
- Writing + art from the year

More time, but high impact



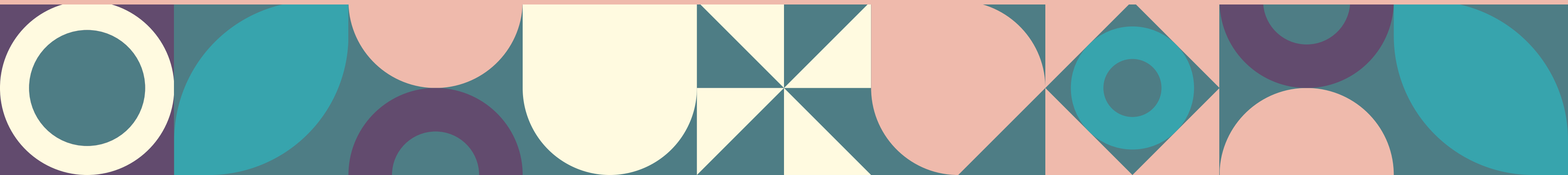


## Sell the Book

- Families purchase copies
- Supports classroom or school

Builds community connection

# Fundraiser Project



# Beyond Student Work

## Teacher-created Resources



Planners



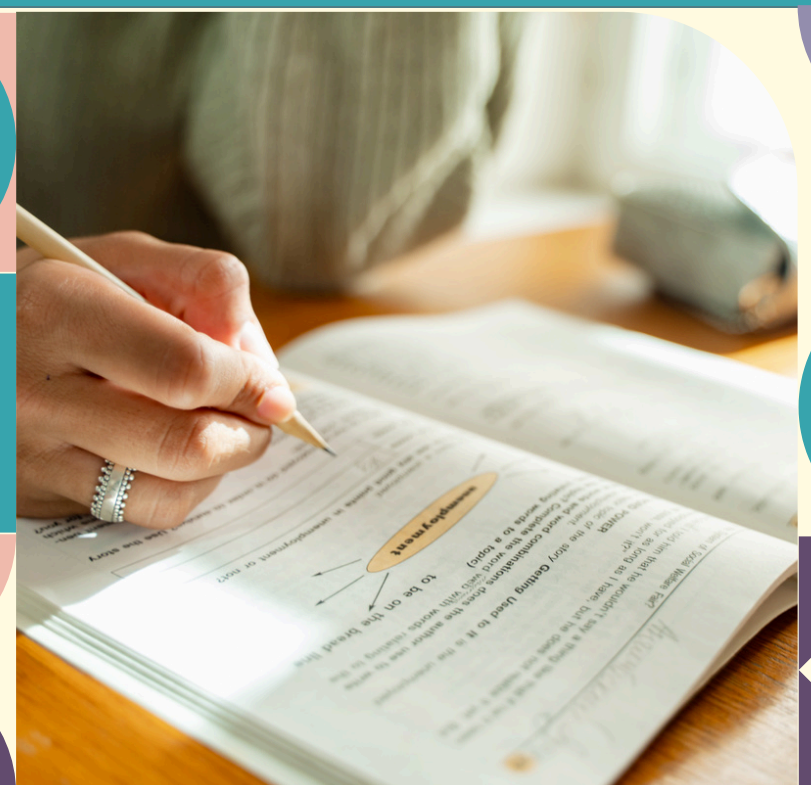
Notebooks



Custom Workbooks



Guided Journals



Curriculum-Aligned Materials

# Ready to Get Started?



**Free Resources**



Social Media  
Website  
Important links

TheBookRoomNC.com  
info@TheBookRoomNC.com

# Let's Stay Connected