

Tutor Spotlight



Discover the experts behind BookNook's high-impact tutoring success with our Tutor Spotlights! We invite you to get to know some of the exceptional virtual tutors who make our service stand out.

At BookNook, we're passionate about providing high-quality, effective educational resources for school districts, and our tutors are a vital part of that mission.

Each Tutor Spotlight offers a glimpse into the background and expertise of one of our talented tutors, giving school districts the assurance they need to confidently choose BookNook for their students. We hope you enjoy learning more about our tutors and the impact they're making in schools across the country.

Tutor Spotlight



Meet Tashika!

Tashika Perry-CAKPO is a certified teacher with a culturally-rich career serving students across the globe. What began with training adults through the National Restaurant Association has blossomed into an exciting professional journey in education, connecting her with learners in locations such as the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, and West Africa.

HIGHLIGHTS



M.Ed., Indiana Wesleyan University



Experienced teacher of English learners



4 years of experience in remote learning environments

Tashika began to use remote learning as a powerful tool in 2019 when civil unrest in Bolivia prevented students from attending school safely.

It was a challenge, but when the Covid pandemic soon followed, I had a revelation of the importance of teaching effectively in a virtual setting. I could see it was the beginning of a new era. So I began proactively seeking professional development through ACSI, the Accreditation for Christian Schools, to learn as much as possible about teaching remotely.

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And learn she did! Tashika said this about teaching and learning in the virtual space:

Providing hands-on learning opportunities in the classroom is important, so using resources in a virtual environment that are equally impactful at engaging students is key. Maneuvering the remote environment in a way that not only mimics but also enhances person-to-person interactions is what I strive to deliver to my students when I tutor.

What Tashika said about working with BookNook:

I started picking up classes in December last year. I was nervous at first about organizing the content and resources within the session time, but now I'm confident working consistently with the students I serve. I also appreciate the workshops and tips BookNook provides for tutors to continue our development.

Tutor Spotlight



Meet Desiree!

Desiree Day is a highly-qualified tutor with experience leading English learners to success. After varied experiences in the classroom and learning centers, Desiree's family made the decision to homeschool, and she is now a full-time home educator to their three children.

At first, Desiree preferred the variety and even anonymity she had teaching one-off sessions with other companies; but, after working with BookNook programs for a time, she favors our tutor motto of Consistency + Commitment to work with the same students for their entire program tenure. Now, she loves seeing her students progress over time and knowing how to motivate them.

HIGHLIGHTS



Master of Teaching,
Elementary Education



5+ years of experience
with English Learners



Full-time home educator
and online tutor

When asked what her favorite part of tutoring has been, Desiree was eager to share:

I like creating an environment where people are empowered to take risks even if they don't understand. I really like talking students through the process in a way that isn't condescending. When I offer my tutoring students time to learn with lots of encouragement, I enjoy seeing how they respond and watching them grow.

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What Desiree said about working with BookNook:

I've worked for other tutoring companies, and BookNook's platform is very different. I love that everything is provided, like the curriculum. This has been my most favorable experience by far. It's much more organized, and I have fewer students in each session. I know there are some things that would make it better, but I also know that BookNook is always working to get better.

Tutor Spotlight



Meet Sarah!

Sarah Doerneman is a certified teacher with over a decade of experience teaching students with a wide range of abilities. She earned her Master of Education from Northern Arizona University in 2006. When Sarah and her husband Brad aren't leading a homeschool co-op to support their four children, they fulfill their dream as small business owners, self-managing a local hardware store in the southwest.

Not only is Sarah passionate about teaching students, but she is also committed to the growth and development of her colleagues at BookNook. Sarah is a tutor leader in BookNook's Online Tutor Community portal, teaching courses to help build tutor efficacy. Her most recent session gave tips for online engagement and behavior management.

HIGHLIGHTS



M.Ed.,
ESL Endorsement



Homeschool co-op
group leader



12 years in public school
education

Sarah was enthusiastic about sharing her favorite part of tutoring when asked:

I think it's the connection with the students. When you tutor online, there's an added challenge in knowing the student can quite literally turn you off. So, engagement and making a positive connection becomes even more critical. When you see struggling students achieve their personal 'aha moment' and you know you've reached them in an impactful way, it makes it all worthwhile.



What Sarah said about working with BookNook:

One thing I really love is the large bank of qualified substitutes available. I recently had a scheduling conflict with a session, but knowing the students could still get the support they needed in my absence was comforting. I also like the flexibility the materials offer. I like to be able to bring my own experiences and let the students do the same. It brings a high level of authenticity and ownership to the lesson and really helps with engagement.



Tutor Spotlight



Meet Abby!

Abby Kail knew she wanted to be a teacher even in the 1st grade. This dream sparked an extraordinarily unique and diverse journey in education resulting in one Disney Teacher and two Golden Apple award nominations. After decades of quality service in the field, teaching students from preschool to pre-service teachers, Abby is proud to serve as a BookNook tutor part-time.

Even with primarily in-person experiences, tutoring online was an easy transition for Abby. She has a knack for helping each student feel special during her sessions, no matter the learning environment. This perfectly compliments our BookNook motto of Consistency + Commitment to work with the same students for their entire program tenure. Students want to see Ms. Abby again for their next lesson!

HIGHLIGHTS



M.Ed., Northwestern University



Golden Apple & Disney Teacher Award Nominee



Retired teacher

When asked what her favorite part of tutoring has been, Abby shared:

After retiring from full-time work, I'm still doing lots of teaching. My house is like a school between four grandchildren and tutoring students both locally and virtually. I'm loving it. I'm able to be there for my family. I have time to do things I want to do. And best of all, I'm still able to teach and be engaged with kids.

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What Abby said about working with BookNook:

I love the flexibility to meet every child's needs. I can use the technology available to adapt the lesson as needed. It makes it easy to engage students through demonstrations, discussions, and practice. Then, I have the ability to reteach, review and even extend as needed based on what I see. I also like that I can keep notes in the platform so I know how to check for understanding during our next session together.

Tutor Spotlight



Meet Joyce!

Joyce Andrews-McKinney, M.Ed. is a dedicated member of our BookNook virtual tutor team with a rich and diverse background in education. A mother of three and a lifelong learner, Joyce's educational journey spans from earning multiple degrees and endorsements, including special education, to teaching in various settings—from public schools in Grand Rapids to private institutions in Taiwan. Recognizing the future of virtual education early on, she equipped herself with relevant skills and experience in virtual education. Joyce's dedication to tailored learning makes her a great example for our BookNook tutor motto of Consistency + Commitment.

HIGHLIGHTS



Master's degree, education



Special education endorsement



5+ years in virtual education

BIG WINS FOR JOYCE'S STUDENTS

During her interview, Joyce recounted a few moments of triumph during tutoring sessions, **“Virtual tutoring has given me the wonderful opportunity to support each student according to his/her needs. Whether it's using literature to comfort *Ellen during a storm or celebrating my first graders in Detroit when we discovered they can seamlessly use digital tools, virtual learning lets me provide the precise strategies students need to succeed, both in and out of the classroom.”**

**The student's name has been changed for privacy reasons.*

What Joyce said about working with BookNook:

“I thoroughly enjoy my role as a BookNook tutor because the platform offers a comprehensive framework that allows me to be both structured and creative in my lessons. I don't take myself seriously, but I take teaching very seriously. I'm committed to ensuring that BookNook looks good because we're in this together to help students achieve their full potential.”



Tutor Spotlight



Meet Lomikia!

Lomikia Gerling-Douglas has a strong commitment to helping students succeed. In addition to her work as a BookNook tutor, Lomikia is also a published author with titles such as *Untold Heroes*, short stories featuring black role models around the world. What began initially as necessity-driven involvement in tutoring has evolved into a genuine passion for Lomikia. Tutoring for BookNook provided not just a job but a sense of purpose and community, especially critical considering the language and cultural barriers she faced after relocating to Germany.

With her dedication and passion, Lomikia is a testament to BookNook's tutor motto of Consistency + Commitment. She utilizes her time with students to the fullest, ensuring they receive the most out of their tailored learning experiences.

HIGHLIGHTS



Bachelor degree



Published children's book author



3 years of experience tutoring online

A MOMENT OF TRIUMPH

During her interview, Lomikia recalled a particularly significant win she experienced with one of her students: **"I had the privilege of celebrating a big win in reading with a student recently. It was such a solid moment for both of us."** This wasn't just a win for the student; it was a win for Lomikia too. **"I was proud for her, but I was also proud for me to know I had helped her gain important skills and confidence in reading."**



What Lomikia said about tutoring with BookNook:

"Tutoring for BookNook has been rewarding in a way I can't explain," says Lomikia. Many don't envision a teaching role for themselves early on. **"So it's been unexpectedly rewarding to watch students start to understand, to watch them succeed, to watch them improve. My mission as a virtual tutor is to give students the confidence to take risks and make mistakes and the confidence to know they can improve and succeed."**



Tutor Spotlight



Meet Julia!

Julia Frazer has a strong conviction for helping students succeed. In addition to her work as a writer and BookNook tutor, Julia also commits to working with a local non-profit providing free tutoring to under-resourced communities near the greater Los Angeles area. This fits perfectly with BookNook's tutor motto of Consistency + Commitment.

Julia's experiences with the benefits of tutoring began on the receiving end of service. She knew what a bold impact a qualified tutor can make on a student's life and academic career, and she wanted to pay it forward to others. Julia particularly enjoys online tutoring for its ability to better serve students with regard to equitable access. She is able to reach students in geographically isolated areas as easily as students in city centers.

HIGHLIGHTS



B.A. Literature,
UC Santa Barbara



Tutor Coach for non-profit
organizations



2+ years of experience
tutoring online

When asked what her favorite part of tutoring online has been, Julia shared:

The wealth of resources at my fingertips when I tutor online is so helpful. If a student asks a question, I know I have support and I'm able to find an answer easily if I'm not sure. For example, just today one of my students was reading a story about cats and their whiskers. She was so engaged and had a lot of questions, so we took a few minutes to learn more together. I could see our positive experience with reading meant a lot to her.

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What Julia said about working with BookNook:

The 30-minute time limit is perfect, especially with younger students. I've noticed that frequent, small doses of learning really hold their attention well. Also, I like working with smaller groups at BookNook. Most of my sessions now are one-to-one learning. This helps students get the support they need to accelerate the learning process—not to mention the rapport we can develop.



Tutor Spotlight



Meet Danielle!

Danielle Hethcox is a highly-experienced tutor with a strong passion to support marginalized populations nationwide. As a military spouse, Danielle needed a creative solution to continue tutoring despite frequent relocations. After several years of tutoring students in person, the concept of live, virtual tutoring with BookNook piqued her interest. During her video interview, she was pleased to discover how much of her expertise she could transfer to her new role.

For Danielle, one of the most obvious catalysts to her success in virtual tutoring is her ability to create a strong connection with the students she serves. Small details like knowing how to pronounce each first name, remembering stories from previous sessions, and picking out a talking point to engage learning shows her dedication to our tutor motto of Consistency + Commitment.

HIGHLIGHTS



Bachelor of Science,
Mathematics



ESL and GED program
volunteer



10+ years tutoring
students of all ages

When asked what her favorite part of tutoring has been, Danielle said:

It feels great to know I can immediately impact school children across the country. I enjoy BookNook sessions as much as the students do!



What Danielle said about working with BookNook:

I like that BookNook listens to customers and tutors. I can see from recent changes to the platform that you're taking user feedback and constantly using it to improve. It also feels great to be a part of a strong team bringing more positive learning opportunities to students who need it most.



Tutor Spotlight



Meet Michelle!

Michelle Bermas is a lifelong learner and qualified tutor with a rich background in literacy. Michelle's love of reading and learning began early as she spent time with her mother behind the desk at the library where she worked. Despite her challenges with dyslexia, she knew she wanted reading and writing to take a front seat in her career one day.

Michelle commits not only to the students she tutors but also to her colleagues. She recently led an internal workshop for other BookNook tutors about "Using Props to Enhance Lessons". This illustrates our BookNook tutor motto of Consistency + Commitment perfectly.

HIGHLIGHTS



B.A. in English,
Pace University



Published author and
journalist



3+ years of online tutor
experience

When asked what her favorite part of tutoring has been, Michelle said:

The rapport I build with my students is my favorite part of the job. I know I'm making a difference in their lives because we're having fun and learning. Reading is an adventure, students today need to remember that books can be better than social media once they give it a chance. I love it when their faces light up and they ask questions.



What Michelle said about working with BookNook:

It's an honor to be a part of a child's education. Reading affects every aspect of a student's life from elementary school through college and into the workforce. BookNook offers students an advantage in so many ways. Not only do my students learn the curriculum but they learn that their opinions matter, how to support their ideas, ask questions and so much more. Tutors will scaffold their lessons to constantly challenge students' individual needs. There's no summer slide when you have a BookNook education.



Tutor Spotlight



Meet Wura!

We're delighted to spotlight Wura Adeoye, whose extensive background in both classroom and online teaching enhances our mission of helping students succeed in reading. Wura made a remarkable transition from a career in corporate America to education, starting as a Program Director for a Before/After school program. Her commitment to student growth led her to full-time classroom teaching, specifically as a 3rd-grade teacher and team leader at a French immersion school. Wura's diverse experience—working with special education programs and ESOL Spanish-speaking student populations—drove her to further her education with a Master's degree in TESOL and certification in Special Education.

HIGHLIGHTS



Master of Education, TESOL



Certified in Special Education



5 years of experience
teaching online teacher

A PERFECT ALIGNMENT WITH BOOKNOOK'S APPROACH

“In 2018, I began teaching online across several learning platforms. By far, BookNook is one of my favorites,” says Wura. She values BookNook's balanced approach that combines high-dose engagement with a focus on student reading growth. Wura elaborates, “Students are guided with questions to elicit output and activate background knowledge. Tutors like me are provided with teaching tips that pop up only for us to see.” This strategic scaffolding, along with independent practice time, makes BookNook resonate with Wura, especially because it closely aligns with her classroom teaching strategies.



WHAT SETS HER APART

Wura is more than just a tutor; she's an educator at heart. “As a certified, former classroom teacher, I see various elements of pedagogy within the BookNook sessions and am reminded of my own small group classroom instruction.” Wura's deep understanding of pedagogy and her commitment to skillful use of the platform make her an exemplary fit as a tutor for BookNook and we are proud to have her on our team.



Tutor Spotlight



Meet Candice!

With almost three decades of successful teaching experience, Candice Hagon was ready to continue her professional journey in education with virtual tutoring. When she found BookNook, she was delighted by the opportunity to broaden her impact with students nationwide.

One aspect of being a new tutor that ignites Candi's enthusiasm is how easy the transition has been and how much expertise she can bring with her. She loves when students connect the skills during tutoring sessions with recent learning they've done during class time. As a former teacher, it's important to Candi that her sessions have relevance to what's being taught. This aligns perfectly with our BookNook tutor motto of Consistency + Commitment.

HIGHLIGHTS



M.Ed. Early Childhood Endorsement



New to virtual tutoring



Retired teacher

When asked what her favorite part of tutoring has been, Candi was eager to share:

In a small group, students love the opportunity to make stronger connections—not only with me as the facilitator, but with each other as well. They want to participate in sessions. It's not a chore or something extra. Smaller groups also provide more insight into those things that students really need that may be overlooked in a large group.

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What Candi said about working with BookNook:

I like that I can feel comfortable with the instructional materials in the virtual platform. It's very similar to what I did during small group reading instruction in my classroom with the added bonus that everything is already ready for me. I can easily interpret what I need to know about the lesson and then throw in my own expertise here and there depending on the needs of the students I'm working with.