

Chestnut Publishing Group Announces the Miss Flint Stories Video Contest for Elementary Classes



**VIDEO
CONTEST**

Have you and your students always wanted to be in the movies? Here's your big chance! Chestnut Publishing is challenging classes using the Miss Flint stories to dramatize one or more of the stories, videotape the final production, and submit it to the publisher. Each year, the best submissions will be chosen for distribution through Chestnut's catalogue, web site, and school sales agents. 25% of the proceeds from the sale of the videos/DVDs will go to the school producing the episode.

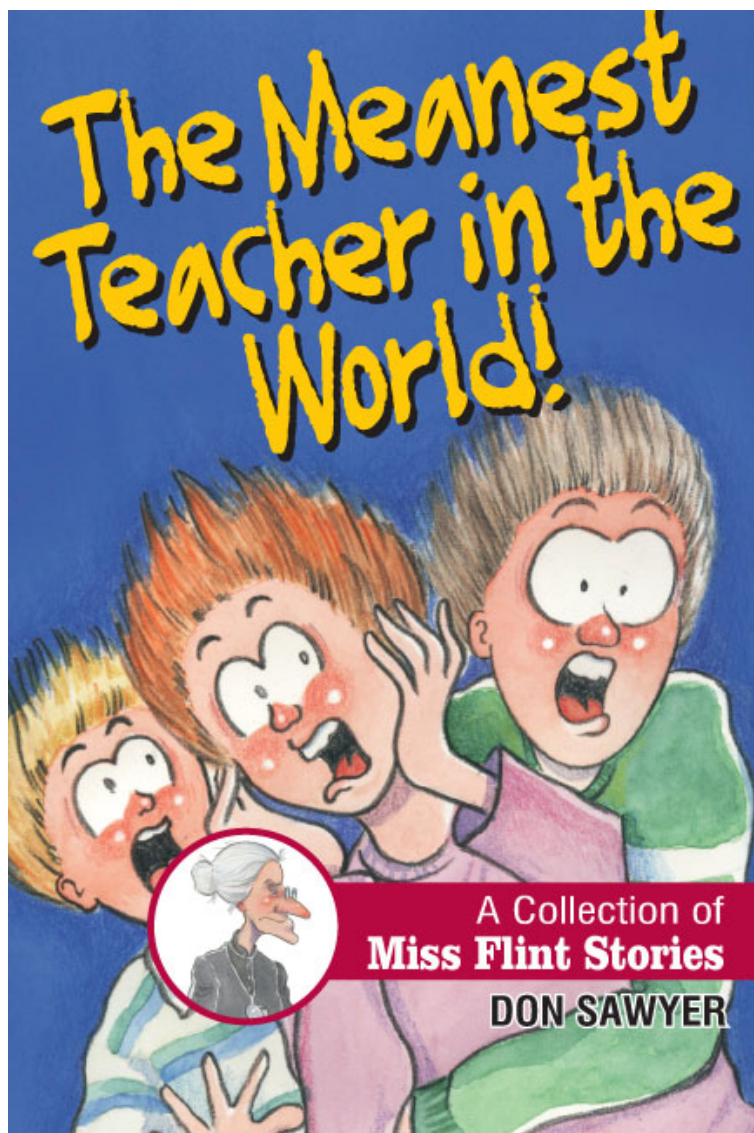
Teachers know that there is nothing more fun - or as full of learning - as groups of students adapting stories to drama. Developing listening, speaking, writing and group cooperation skills, student-created and adapted skits and plays have been a staple of good language arts classes for years. Now, with the publication of two collections of stories about the dastardly Miss Flint and her ever resourceful third grade victims, you and your students have a chance to not only adapt the uproarious stories for the classroom, but have them distributed to other classrooms across the country.

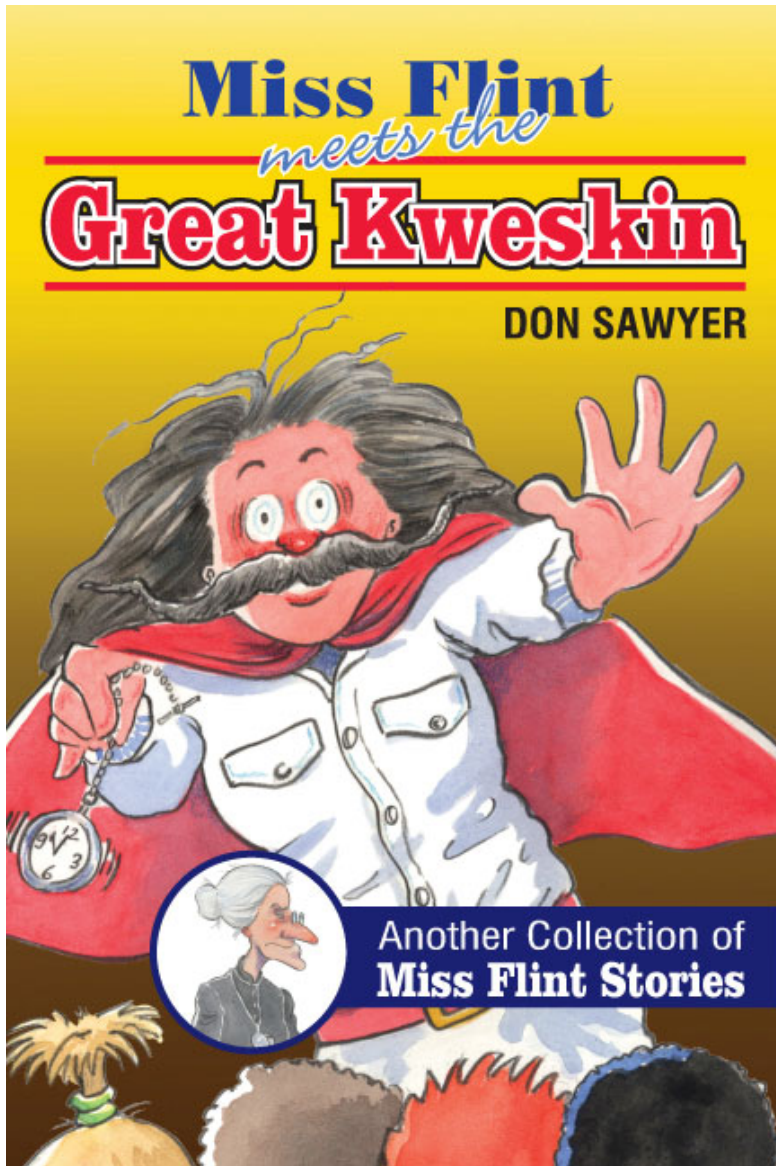
The two collections of stories, *The Meanest Teacher in the World* and *Miss Flint Meets the Great Kweskin*, are accompanied by a 50-page teacher's guide filled with ideas for using the stories to teach language arts, social studies and interpersonal skills at the intermediate elementary and middle school levels. Books are available from Chestnut Publishing or, in British Columbia, from distributor Hank Luck, luckencore@telus.net (or phone 604 515-9106).

To submit tapes, mail to:

Miss Flint Video Competition
Chestnut Publishing
4005 Bayview Avenue, Unit 610
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M2M 3Z9

For more information, phone: 416-224-5824.





Miss Flint has rules

Interested in the video competition? Here are a few rules:

All the actors must be students in the school submitting the video except for a maximum of one teacher.

Competition is limited to elementary and middle/junior secondary schools.

Students must be in grades 1-8. The episodes should not be more than 30 minutes in length.

The technical crew (lights, camerapersons, set designers, costume makers, video editors, directors) must be at least half students, with at least one student attached to each non-student production person.

If the production is selected, the submitting teacher will secure all necessary permissions and complete distribution agreement with the publisher.

All submissions will be returned if a stamped self-addressed envelop is enclosed.

All entries must be submitted by March 31 of the year entered.

Here are a few tips:

The real purpose of this exercise is to have fun. Make sure the process of making the video is emphasized rather than concentrating on trying to get the video selected as a winner.

As much as possible, retain all of the dialogue in the Miss Flint story being dramatized, but actors can also extemporize and add additional dialogue as necessary to make a good production.

Before shooting, work with students to develop a full script that adapts the written story for "film".

If possible, have actors memorize their lines.

Spend some time learning about costumes, filming basics, props, script writing, sets, makeup, acting techniques, lighting and other film/theatre elements. Don't hesitate to get community experts in to help coach the technicians and actors and explain more about acting and theatrical production.

Use locations outside of the classroom to make the production more realistic and effective.

Make sure the actors have time to rehearse before the actual shooting.

Investigate how films are made (e.g. the use of multiple "takes") and incorporate these approaches into your production.

Find a technician who can help students learn how to edit the tape (optional).

