

Mrs. Barrasso – K4

Helen Lester is a children's author, best known for her Book Tacky the Penguin. Helen had a difficult childhood where she struggled with learning disabilities including dyslexia. As a child, she faced challenges when reading and writing and never dreamed of becoming an author or illustrator. In her book, Author: a True Story, Mrs. Lester describes her frustrations as a child and how perseverance, dedication, and determination, anything is possible. She chronicled her editing process and left a message for her young readers: Never give up! Her heroism is one that is achievable by all.

The children in K-4 enjoyed hearing several of Mrs. Lester's stories and learning about her struggles and determination. One of her books became a K-4 favorite: Tacky the Penguin! They created a special fine motor craft as an extension to what they learned. They traced, cut, and decorated their own Tacky Penguins and used these puppets to retell the story of Helen Lester's life and also the story of Tacky the Penguin himself.



