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Celia Navejas and Nelmy Perez received checks for \$150 from the owners of Red Ant Publishing.

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Sixth grader's tale to be turned into book

"Capitan Parchito and the Lost Treasure" to be published by Red Ant Publishing this summer.

By **THERESA CISNEROS**

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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ANAHEIM For the past three years, sixth grader Celia Navejas has struggled with reading.

After some heavy one-on-one tutoring, the Benjamin Franklin Elementary student has made so much progress, that she's authored her own short story that will soon be made into a book.

"Capitan Parchito and the Lost Treasure," a tale about a pirate in search of riches, will be published by Red Ant Publishing this summer. With every 500 books sold, \$100 will go to a scholarship fund in Celia's name for library supplies and other items.

Celia, and fellow student Nelmy Perez who will illustrate the story, were recognized this week in front of the school community for their efforts. Both received checks for \$150 for the rights to their work. Celia's mom, Rosaura Navejas, says her daughter's funds will be used to establish a college fund.

Here's what Celia had to say about the experience.

Q. How did you feel when you learned your story would be published?

A. When they first called to tell me, I was so excited I couldn't even speak. It's amazing. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Q. How did the story evolve?

A. Our project in class was to write about a pirate.

It's about a pirate that wants to find treasure because he's addicted. I wrote it like a journal with a meaning, instead of it just about him finding the treasure because that's like any story out there.

The meaning is that the treasure isn't gold, but in your heart and that's where you should look to find it.

Q. How did you come up with the title?

A. The pirate has an eye patch. I wanted to call him Captain Patchy, but then we found out the name was close to the name of a character from Sponge Bob and didn't want to copy it. So I changed it to "Capitan Parchito" in Spanish, but the book is in English.

Q. What do you like to read about?

A. It depends on the subject. Right now I'm reading "The Tail of Emily

Windsnap." I also like fairy tales, the Harry Potter and Narnia series and stories about things that happened in the past, like World War II.

Q. What do you want to be when you grow up?


A. I want to be an author. I want to write a story about what the Bible teaches you. I'm Christian and what we learn is that it's like a compass or a map. I want to write about how you should follow it.

For more information on Red Ant Publishing, visit www.redantpublishing.com.


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