To commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII, our goal is to capture the last of the stories of the WWII generation, the Civil Rights era and Korean War Veterans. A unique writing project called A BOOK by ME asks students 18 or younger to interview, research, write and illustrate true stories after hearing a powerful story.

- Since 2003, young people have been interviewing, researching, writing, editing and illustrating stories (some projects have an author and an artist and sometimes one student does both). Our priority has been WWII stories.
- To date, hundreds of stories have been written and illustrated by young people (18 and younger).
- The first step is always the interviewing process. Historically, that has been in person but now, due to Covid-19 pandemic, the possibilities now include Zoom or FaceTime.
- It’s important that the young person has the contact information of a family member or caregiver who emails or text so questions can be asked and answered easily.
- Once the project is completed, you will be asked to review the written story and the artwork for accuracy.
- Once you have approved the storyline and the illustrations, you will need to sign a release so we can publish the child’s work.
- If you have any questions, contact Deb at 309-582-4882.

Learn more at [www.understandingworks.org](http://www.understandingworks.org)

Mary Jean Eisenhower
CEO People to People International
Granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower

"I started to read the materials and stories, and I could not put them down. It was so powerful to read both the student’s interpretation, as well as the direct stories from the survivors themselves. I have many times researched and studied the Holocaust, but these stories bring the experience to life."