

# HSHT STUDENT PUBLISHES BOOK

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# RELEASE

Current St. Johns County High School High Tech (HSHT) student, Kasenia (Kasi) Turlington just published her first Young Adult novel, *The Passage Fairies*, a fantasy series about a little girl who is visited by Passage Fairies over three consecutive nights. The series is themed around a Russian fairytale which pays homage to her birthplace.

A rising Senior at Creekside High School and three-year member of The Able Trust's High School High Tech program, Kasi was adopted by her parents from Sakhalin, Russia when she was three years old. The concept for *Passage Fairies*, was conceived at age five after being inspired by a wayward Christmas ornament she found outside her home. The pen name is her original Russian last name.

Since joining HSHT, Kasenia has become more active in group activities, participates in off campus events and has overcome her own challenges to volunteer at the Jacksonville Humane Society with limited supervision since September 2019. Linda Carnell, Principal at Switzerland Point Middle School exclaimed, "Kasi is a wonderful young lady who has gained more confidence in her social interactions with others since joining HSHT. She has become more open to sharing her feelings and offering her opinion to others. The past two years she has helped at our freshman orientation, which includes speaking to peers. This has helped Kasi be more social and shine on her own!"

Kasi and her father, D.A., feel that without the social skills and career readiness training she has received through HSHT she would not be excelling in her volunteering/employment areas. Kasi's father has noted an increase in her self-esteem due to HSHT as well, which is easily heard in the radio interview on, WSOS Radio 103.9, she gave for the book's release.

