



# Steps to Creating My Children's Books

- 1) Have an idea
- 2) Write it down
- 3) Write it a lot of different ways, think about it, picture the art in my mind, sleep on it
- 4) Research the idea to see who else has done it, and then make sure I do it my way with my voice
- 5) Do little thumbnail sketches in color. Do only a few pages of the book.
- 6) Take manuscript and thumbnails to your editor and hope he or she likes it
- 7) Get a contract
- 8) If this is a non-fiction book, research for the correct information
- 9) Find anything that will inspire me. Bring it to my studio and put it on my wall or on my desk...papers with patterns, photos, toys, objects etc.
- 10) Write the text and make sure my editor approves it. Rewrite it many times.
- 11) Do the complete art for the book in thumbnail sketches, and do one final piece of art and send to editor for approval
- 12) Blow up thumbnail sketches to full size of book and use as template for final art
- 13) Paint the paintings for the book
- 14) The process of painting the paintings could be a whole other page of instructions that would be titled "how to be an artist" (see reference books for help in this area)
- 15) Make a lot of mistakes and have some bad days
- 16) Make a lot of great art and have some good days
- 17) Finish art and spend a few days gluing papers down and cleaning up mistakes
- 18) Scan finished art to computer and lay out the book
- 19) Send art and final layout to editor and art director
- 20) Get some art back and make revisions/send back
- 21) Say goodbye to your book
- 22) See proofs of the book and be elated because it looks fantastic
- 23) Get a printed copy of your book
- 24) See it in Barnes & Noble and on Amazon
- 25) Go to a school and read your book to some kids and remember why you love making books

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