Your Children's Book
Project Guide

This guide is intended to help you plan out your illustrated children's book, providing an outline for writing, a guide for hiring an illustrator, a checklist for editing, and a checklist for formatting, creating your cover, and publishing through CreateSpace. Let's get started!

- [ ] Write a brief summary of the children's story you want to write: _____ _____

- [ ] Why do you want to write this story? _____

_____

- [ ] What is the target reader age for this story? _____

_____

- [ ] Will you be doing your own illustrations or hiring an illustrator? _____

- [ ] If hiring an illustrator, what is your budget? _____

- [ ] Hiring an illustrator (checklist):

    ___ Determine your book's dimensions: H: _____   W: _____

    ___ Determine your budget (plan on at least a few hundred dollars)

    ___ Create an account on Upwork.

    ___ Post a job on Upwork with a detailed description of the type and quantity of illustrations (and share the dimensions) you need and the timeframe in which you'll need them completed.

    ___ Set aside money to pay for samples from a few illustrators to be sure you pick the best one for your project.

    ___ Ensure you get a cover illustration to go with your interior ills.

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☐ **Potential Illustrators**

Name	Pros	Cons
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

☐ **Expenses.** Track your project expenses here.

Cost	Description	Cost	Description
$_____	_____	$_____	_____
$_____	_____	$_____	_____
$_____	_____	$_____	_____
$_____	_____	$_____	_____
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$_____	_____	$_____	_____
$_____	_____	$_____	_____

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☐ **Book Outline.** This is a general outline but you can change it as desired.

__ Page 1, Title Page: _____

__ Page 2, Copyright Page: _____

__ Page 3, Dedication: _____

__ Page 4, Story Begins: Text or illustration? Description: _____

__ Page 5, (Description): _____

__ Page 6: _____

__ Page 7: _____

__ Page 8: _____

__ Page 9: _____

__ Page 10: _____

__ Page 11: _____

__ Page 12: _____

__ Page 13: _____

__ Page 14: _____

__ Page 15: _____

__ Page 16: _____

__ Page 17: _____

__ Page 18: _____

__ Page 19: _____

__ Page 20: _____

__ Page 21: _____

__ Page 22: _____

__ Page 23: _____

☐ **Editing:** Even (or especially!) children's books need great editing. Be sure to work through automated programs if necessary to clean up the text portion of your manuscript *before* you send it to an editor. You'll save both you *and* the editor time and headaches, and you'll save money.

☐ Editing Checklist (do these *in order* to get the best results):

___ Read your completed manuscript aloud. Record and play it back.

___ Run your completed manuscript through grammarly.com (free)

___ Run your completed manuscript through hemingwayapp.com (free)

___ Run your completed manuscript through autocrit.com or prowritingaid.com (paid).

___ Place your completed manuscript in a Google Doc and invite friends to "Comment" and review it. (free)

___ Begin interviewing editors for your manuscript (paid):

- Name: _____ Cost: $_____

- Name: _____ Cost: $_____

- Name: _____ Cost: $_____

- Name: _____ Cost: $_____

___ Perform the first five steps again with your back cover copy.

☐ *Notes:* _____

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☐ **Interior Formatting.**

___ After editing is finished, complete another outline to designate which text and which illustrations go to each page of the book.

___ Left-hand pages are even numbered, right-hand pages are odd numbered.

___ Use an appropriate font for your primary (story) text.

___ Load text and illustrations to their assigned pages.

___ Ensure font size is appropriate for target reader age.

___ Ensure visual flow on each page of text.

___ Ensure all illustrations fit on pages without pixelation or distortion.

___ Number each page. Remember, even are left-side pages, odd are on right.

___ Watch video lesson one of this class for a walkthrough.

___ When finished, download as Print-Ready PDF, and upload to CreateSpace.

☐ *Notes:* _____

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☐ **Your Cover.** Use this checklist to gather the components for your cover and then create it in Canva (one option).

☐ Gather your:

___ Cover Illustration

___ Back Cover Copy

___ Hex Code for additional colors (example, for non-illustrated back cover)

☐ Create:

___ What are the dimensions for your book? H:_____ W:_____

___ Keep the height the same but double the width: H:_____ W:_____
These are the custom dimensions (in inches) that you will use in Canva.

___ Place a vertical black line in the center of the blank graphic to represent the spine.

___ Watch the cover creation video (Lesson 2) in this mini-class and follow the walkthrough.

___ When finished, download as Print Ready PDF and upload to CreateSpace.

☐ *Notes:* _____

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Your notes, questions, thoughts...

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