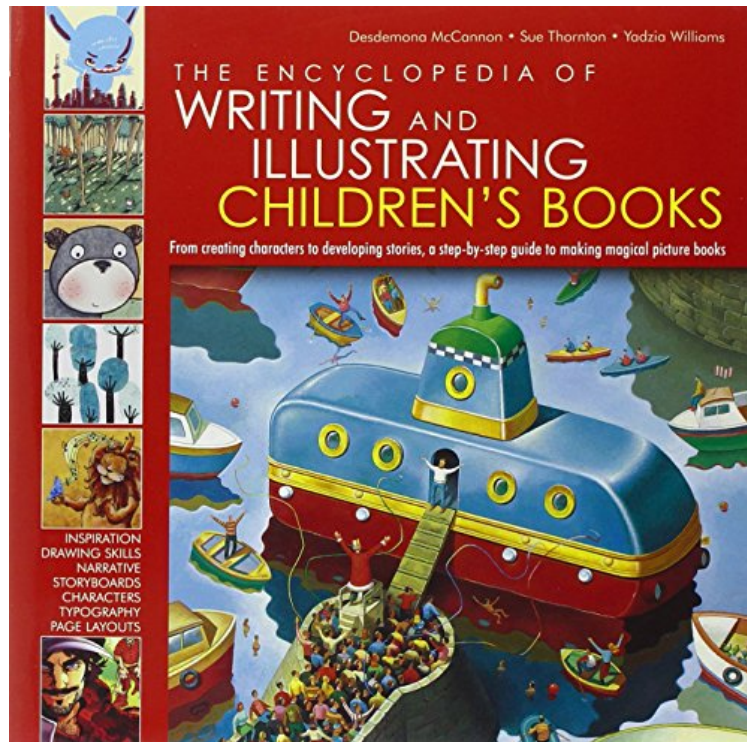


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The Encyclopedia of Writing and Illustrating Children's Books: From creating characters to developing stories, a step-by-step guide to making magical picture books

Desdemona McCannon, Sue Thornton, Yadzia Williams
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Desdemona McCannon, Sue Thornton, Yadzia Williams : The Encyclopedia of Writing and Illustrating Children's Books: From creating characters to developing stories, a step-by-step guide to making magical picture books before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Encyclopedia of Writing and Illustrating Children's Books: From creating characters to developing stories, a step-by-step guide to making magical picture books:

157 of 158 people found the following review helpful. Visually fun and very informative By Up til Dawn Reading I wish the publisher of this book would allow to show a peek of what's inside. I've purchased many books on writing and illustrating children's books, but was wary about purchasing this one because only a cover illustration is shown. While the illustration shown is good, it's not in my style, so I was unsure if the contents would just be more of the same. Let me assure you there are a variety of styles shown. This book is fun to read and fun to look at, with plenty of illustrations and photos. As an encyclopedia, it is not an exhaustive "be all to end all" study of each topic, but rather it is chock full of introductory information with plenty of sidebars containing tips, exercises, and references to other books for further reading. Here is a copy of the table of contents: *Introduction* Chapter 1: Creating Children's Books--

The idea of a picture Book--Target Markets--Themes--Coming Up With an Idea--Research*Chapter 2: Developing an Idea--Sketchbooks--Observing Children--Media and Drawing Styles--Developing Your Own Style--Developing Characters--Proportion--Expression--Movement--Babies and Toddlers--Boys and Girls--Adults--Anthropomorphism--Figure and Ground--Frames and Borders*Chapter 3: Telling the Story--Story Structure--Writing Dialogue--Avoiding Patronizing the Reader--The Writer's Voice--Point of View--Beginnings--Endings--Age Level--Novels--Graphic Novels--Page Dynamics--Pace and Flow - Storyboarding--Dummy Books--Color Theory--Designing with Color--Paper Engineering (Reviewer's Note: Pop-up books)--Novelty Books--Book Jackets*Chapter 4: Nonfiction--The Nonfiction Market--Illustrating Nonfiction--Writing for Different Ages--Creative Nonfiction*Chapter 5: Media and Techniques--Gallery of Techniques--Translucent--Line and Wash--Dry Color--Black and White--Mixed Media and Collage--Digital--Making a Dummy Book*Chapter 6: Professional Practice--Working Life--Copyright and Licensing--Showing Your Work--Getting a Commission*Glossary*Index*Credits

The authors of this book are Welsh and the book was originally conceived, designed, and produced by Quarto Publishing in London. However, this is not a "Market Guide" for the United Kingdom, so if you don't live anywhere near the U.K., do not let that deter you from this book. Some reference books cited for further reading are U.S. published, and some are U.K. published. This book is a wonderful introduction to anyone interested in writing and/or illustrating a children's book. For example, basics such as "How to write a story plan" and how to incorporate "page turning appeal" are applicable to any writer. Most topics are given a two-page spread, but the six-page photo spread entitled "Making a Dummy Book" is great for first-timers. I recommend this book for beginners and for any children's book writer and illustrator who is a visual learner and, like me, is interested in amassing a huge library of reference books.

63 of 63 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely Amazing - GET THIS BOOK. By Kay JI just got this book today and I just had to run on to give it a five-star review immediately. First of all - this book is INCREDIBLY well-designed. I cannot stress this enough. There are so many how-to books about art that apparently don't put a lick of thought into their own design, which I hate. This book is just a pleasure to look at and absorb. Fun little fact boxes, doodles, notes, and examples decorate each page. As soon as I opened it, my first impression was: "Yes. Yes, this person knows EXACTLY what they're talking about." That's incredibly rare to find in an instructional book, I'm afraid. I'm already a sequential art major in college, so there was a lot in this book that I was already familiar with - but I can say that the advice they're giving you beginners is absolutely dead on the money. Drawing from life, carrying a sketchbook around, and even talking about how to research or come up with idea. Spectacular! And even though I knew a lot of the beginning section, I enjoyed starting the little practice activities that they suggested on every page. There's even a colour wheel and guide that reminds me of my Colour and Comp classes! This book takes you from the first step (an idea, learning how to DRAW even) and walks you all the way to copyrighting and commission work, with EVERY step in between. They even have a few photoshop tutorials and a development guide for babies, which is super useful! So even if you already know how to draw or build characters, this book still has TONS for you. Story structure, age groups, POV, graphic novels, storyboarding - this book is basically a crash course in a Bachelors of Fine Arts, illustration focus. With so much information crammed into one little 160 page book (it feels much lighter than I expected it to) - it's obviously not going into incredible depth. But make no mistake, at the end of every section they have recommendations to learn further in the subject. I already own several of the books they recommend, and they're absolutely fantastic! Raymond Briggs, Helen Oxenbury, Quentin Blake and many other fabulous well known illustrators are referenced and displayed in blooming lovely colour. These people OBVIOUSLY know exactly what they're talking about, and I can assure you that if you go out and buy the books THEY talk about - you'll be satisfied. This book is absolutely incredible, you MUST get this. I am definitely going to look at the other books in this series, if they're anything at all near this quality - it's something special!

23 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Pay Attention To Other Reviews; This Is Basically A Coffee Table Book By Jack Snipe The other reviewers on this website nailed it. The book is pretty to look at, but that's all. If you're looking for helpful information on how to go about publishing/creating a real children's book, this isn't the place to look. And the writing style is kind of annoying; the writers sound like they are addressing simpletons. Some nice illustrations, but no real meat on the bones.

The latest in our best selling Encyclopedia of Art series now focuses on a popular topic for both writers and illustrators: how to make, craft, and sell childrens books. This practical book is a step-by-step guide to becoming a successful graphic storyteller, showing how to create exciting plots and engaging characters that will delight young readers. Topics feature a wide range of genres, from fantasy and fairy tales to action-packed adventure, and offers guidance on how to tailor work to suit different age groups. The Encyclopedia of Writing and Illustrating Childrens Books also features a special section on the commercial realities of the childrens publishing industry, with tips on presenting and promoting work, and includes a gallery of inspirational examples from renowned childrens writers and illustrators.

About the Author Desdemona McCannon has wide-ranging experience in the childrens book market, and is currently

the award leader for the MA Illustration for Children at North Wales School of Art. She lives in Wales.