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a.k.a.  [www.dulemba.com](http://www.dulemba.com)

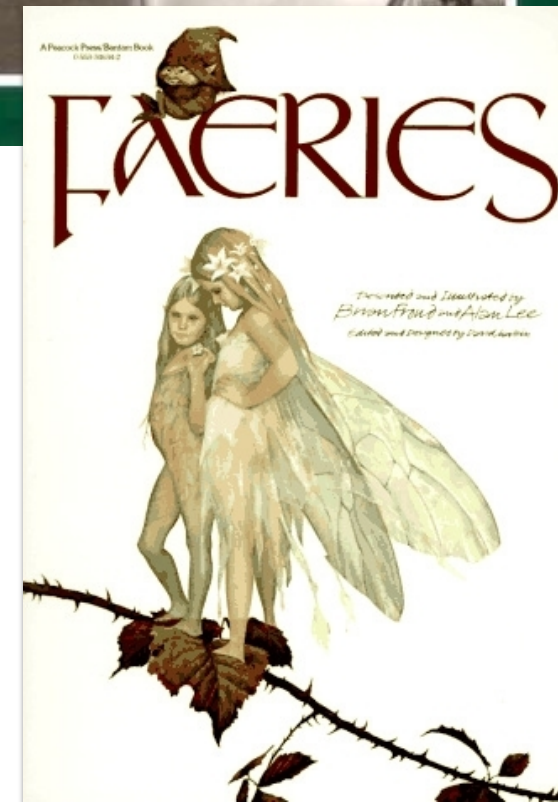
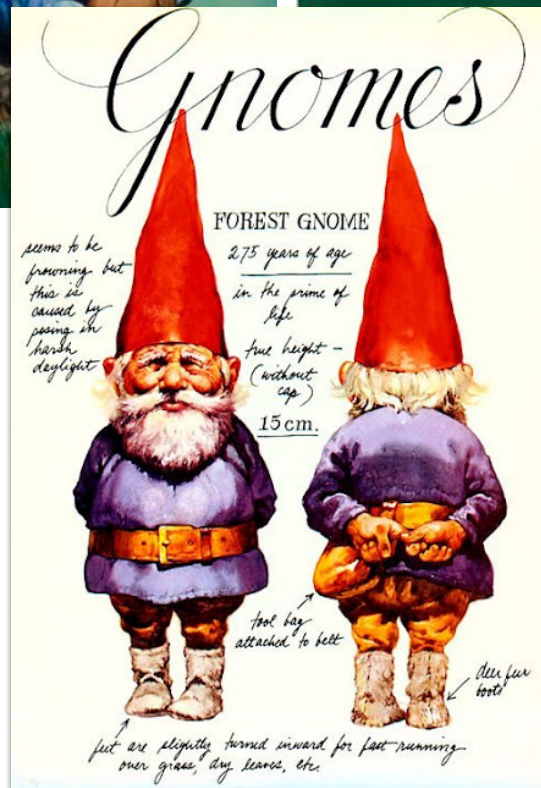
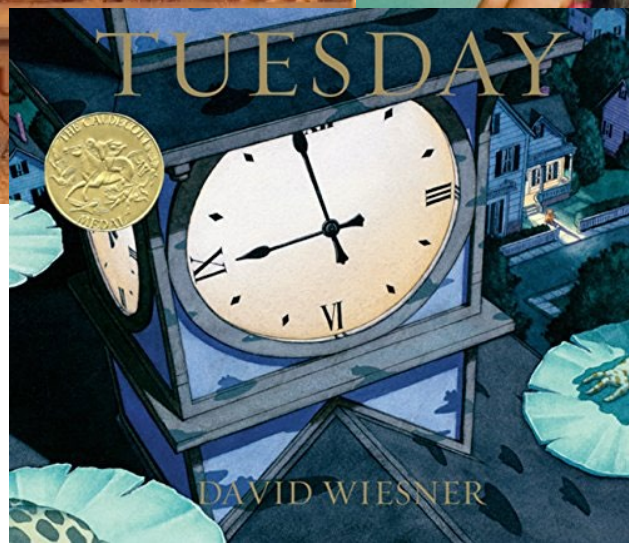
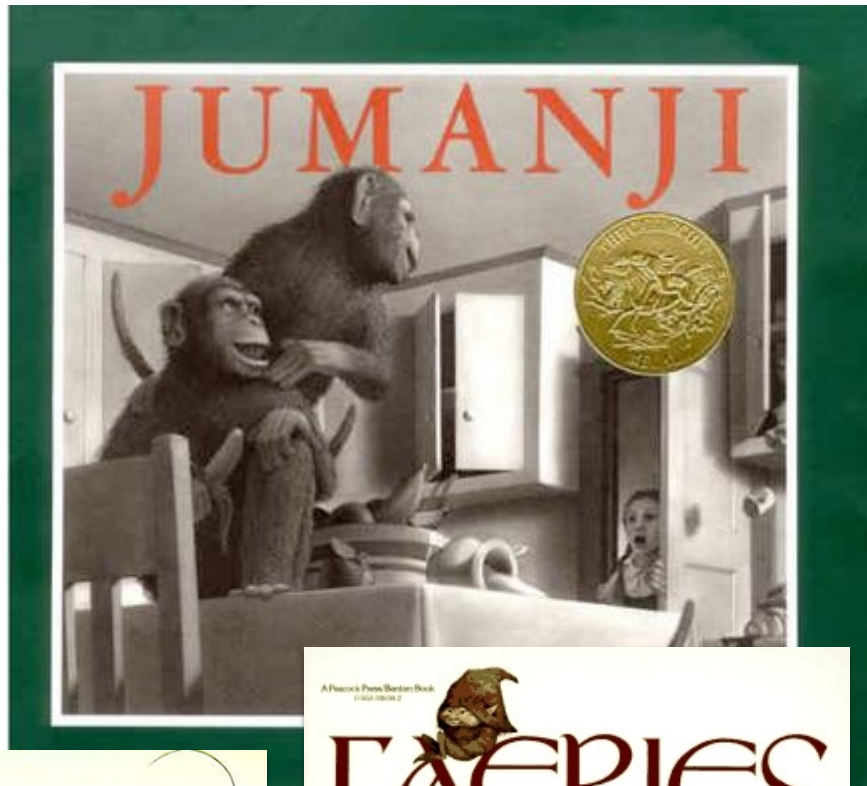
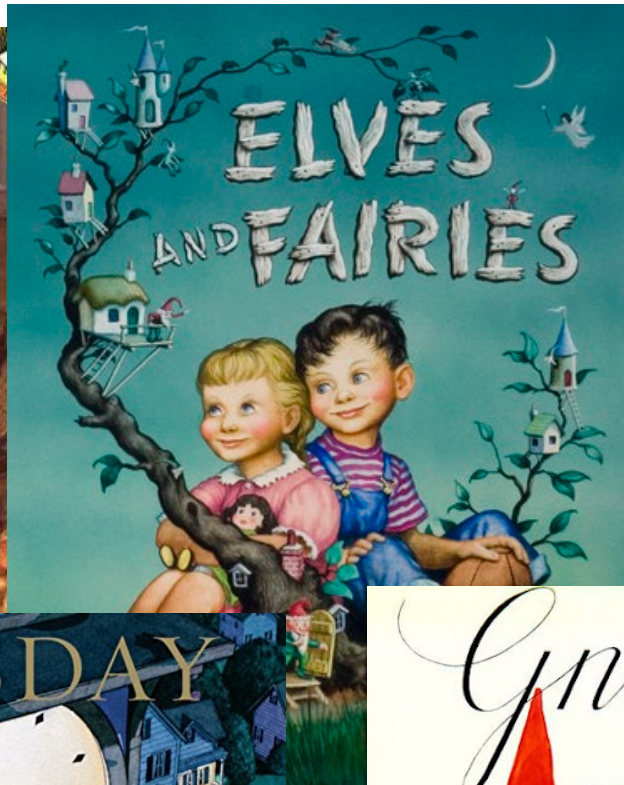
# Creating Children's Picture Books



Most of us remember a book  
from childhood  
that changed our lives  
in some way.



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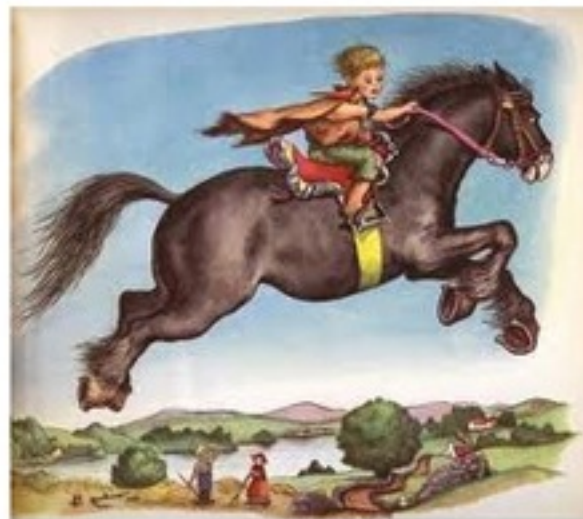
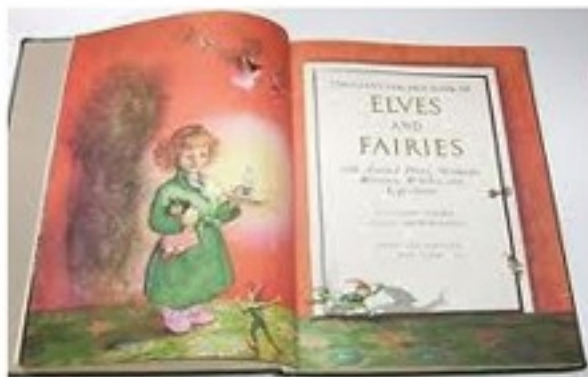
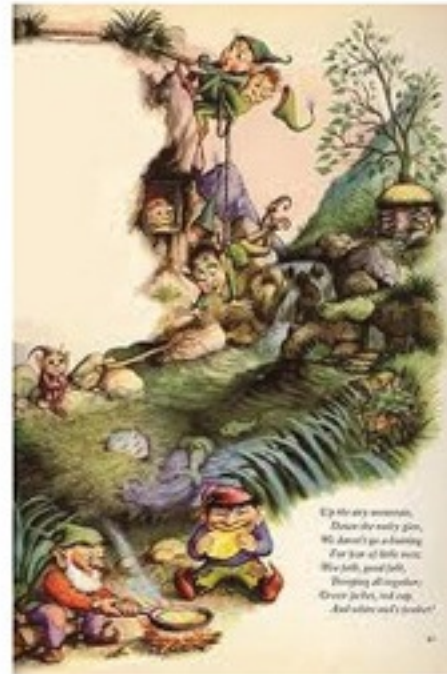


*Rumpelstiltskin* by Paul O. Zelinsky  
*The Golden Book of Elves and Fairies* by Garth Williams  
*Jumanji* by Chris Van Allsburg  
*Gnomes* by Wil Huygen  
*Faeries* by Brian Froud and Alan Lee  
*Tuesday* by David Wiesner



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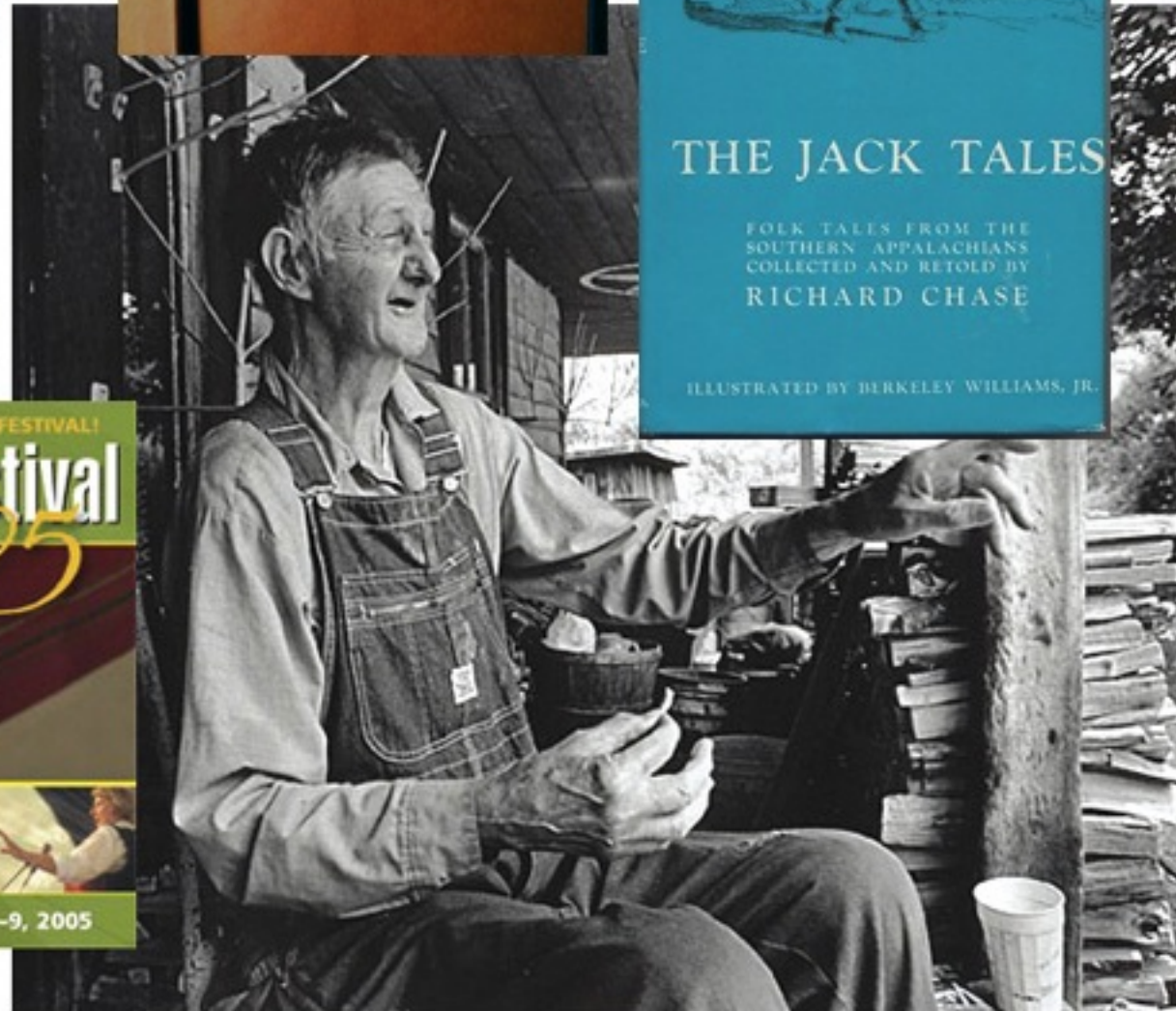
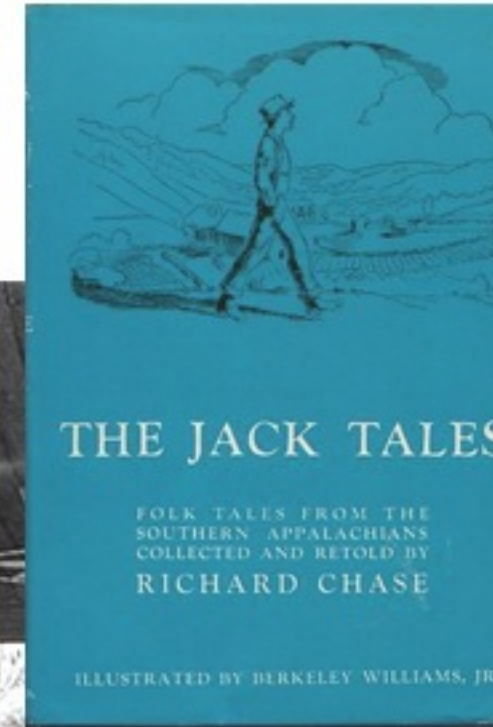
*The Golden Book of Fairies*  
illustrated by Garth Williams

Do *you* want to create  
that magic for others?

Or perhaps you're a natural  
storyteller with a story to tell?

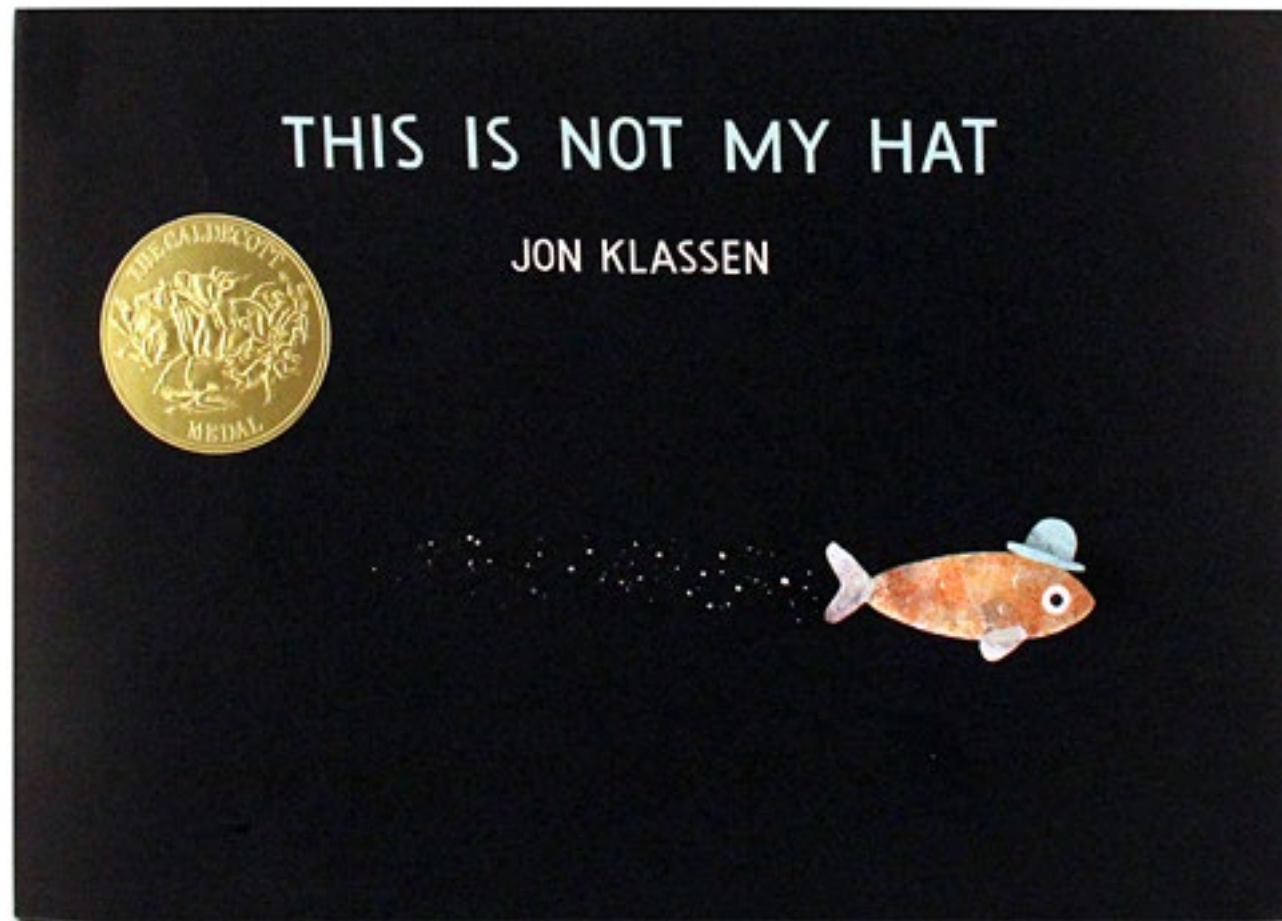


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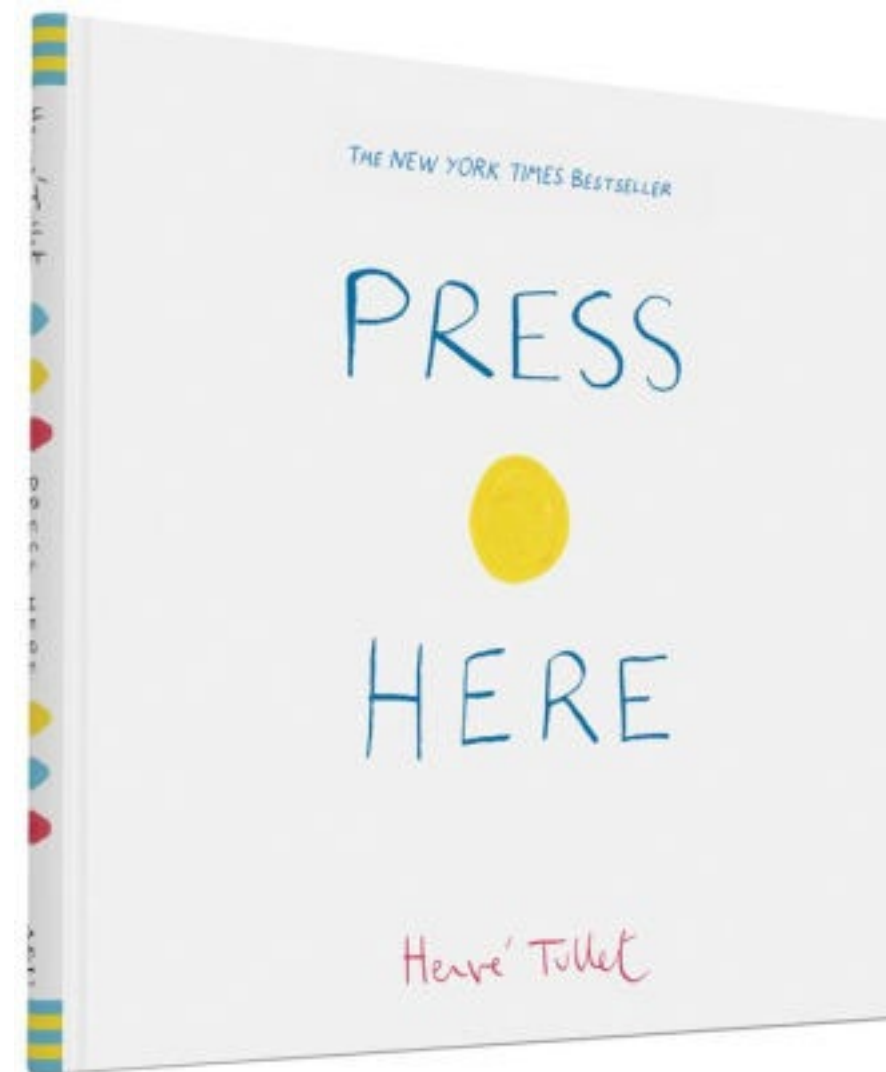
*Ray Hicks - National Treasure*  
on his front porch  
Jonesborough, Tennessee

Picture Books are a little  
different...





They are an interactive art form—performance art—incomplete until in the hands of a reader.



The act of turning the page makes the reader an integral part of the experience.





That's why your biggest job as a picture  
book creator is to  
**MAKE SOMEONE WANT  
TO TURN THE PAGE!**



# How to do this:

Tell a common theme in a new way  
(friendship, new sibling, new pet, new school, feelings, family, holidays, etc.)

Create a clever tale

Create something new



# How to do this:

Tell a common theme in a new way  
(friendship, new sibling, new pet, new school, feelings, family, holidays, etc.)

Create a clever tale

Create something new

***It sounds easy enough...***

**It's not.**



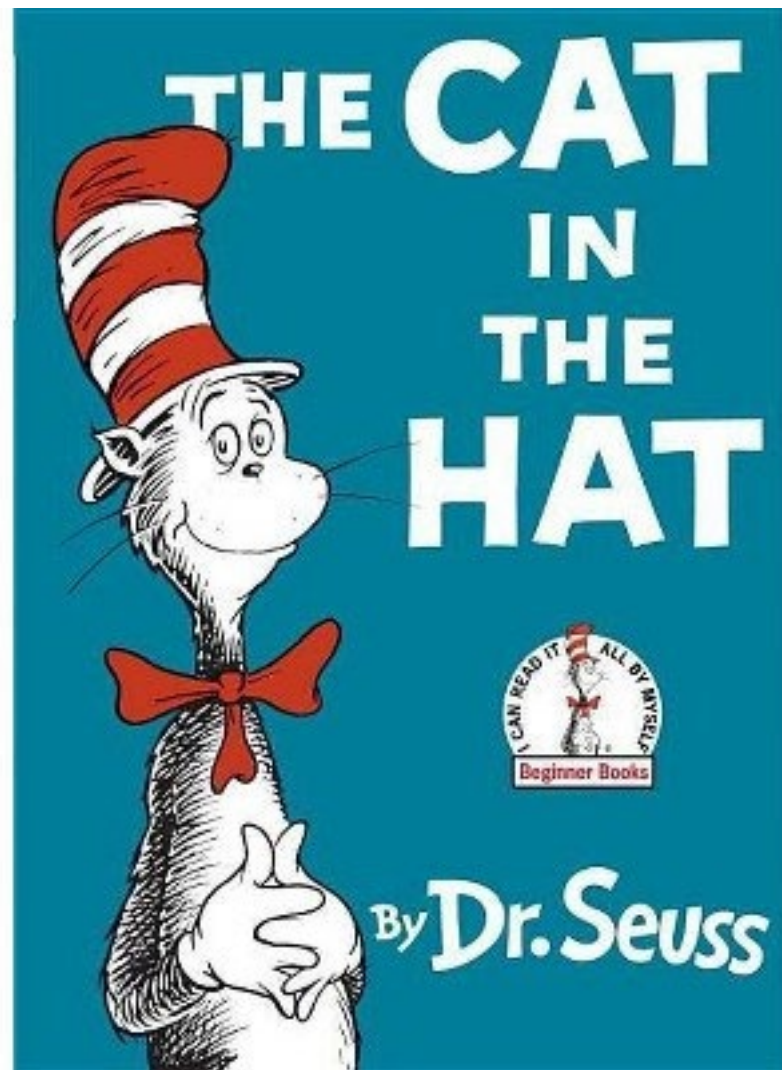
### True story:

Theodore Geisel, Dr. Seuss, was at a cocktail party where he met a brain surgeon.

"Oh, you're that man who writes those children's books," the Doctor said. "Some Saturday, when I have a little extra time, I am going to write one of those."

Dr. Seuss replied, "Ahh yes. And someday when I have a little free time, I'll do brain surgery."





## THE CAT IN THE HAT

was rejected **27** times  
before it was published.



**But, it can be done.**  
(I'm proof.)

**Your first step is to  
write a manuscript.**

500 words or less

**Your first step is to  
write a manuscript.**

~~500~~ words or less



# Your first step is to write a manuscript.

~~500~~ **300** words or less

# Your first step is to write a manuscript.

~~500~~ **300** words or less,  
with a beginning, a middle, and an end.

# Here's what you should not do:

**Tell a common theme**

(friendship, new sibling, new pet, new school, feelings, family, holidays, etc.)

**Create a tired tale**

(An old-fashioned memory)

**Create something that's been done before**

(a gazillion times)

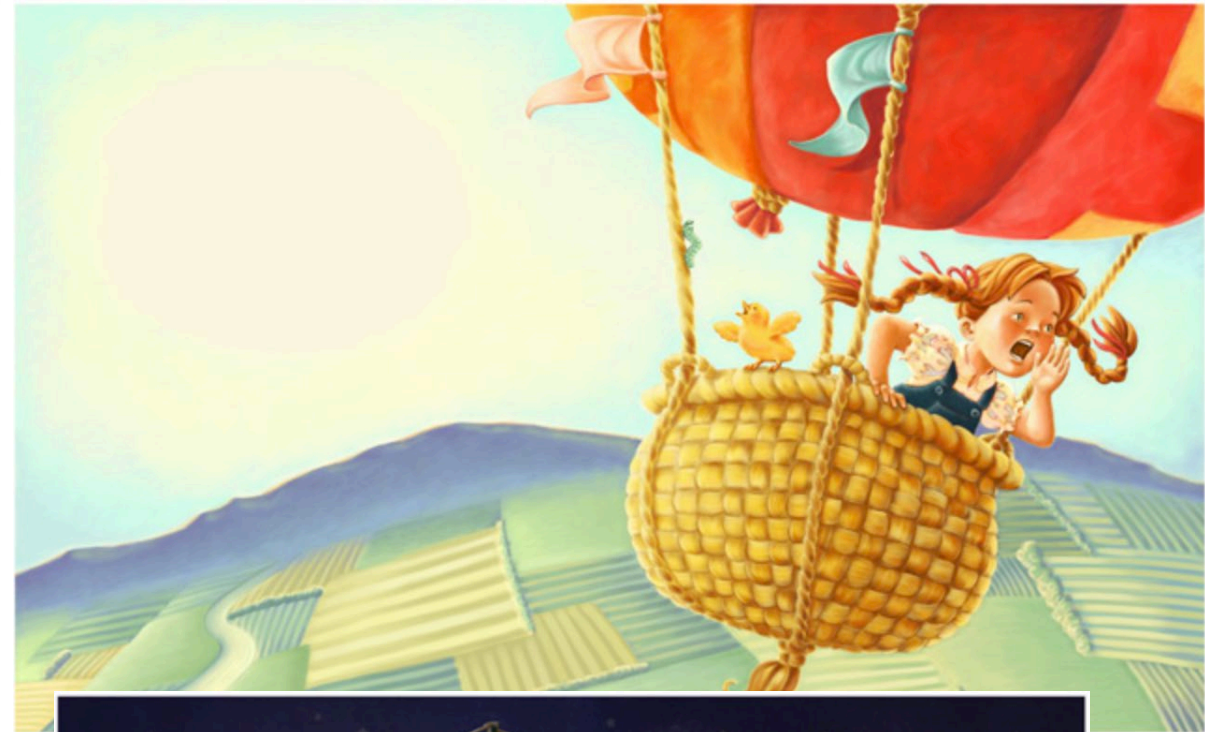
**Be didactic**

(teach a lesson: that's a big no-no!)



**Let's try it...**

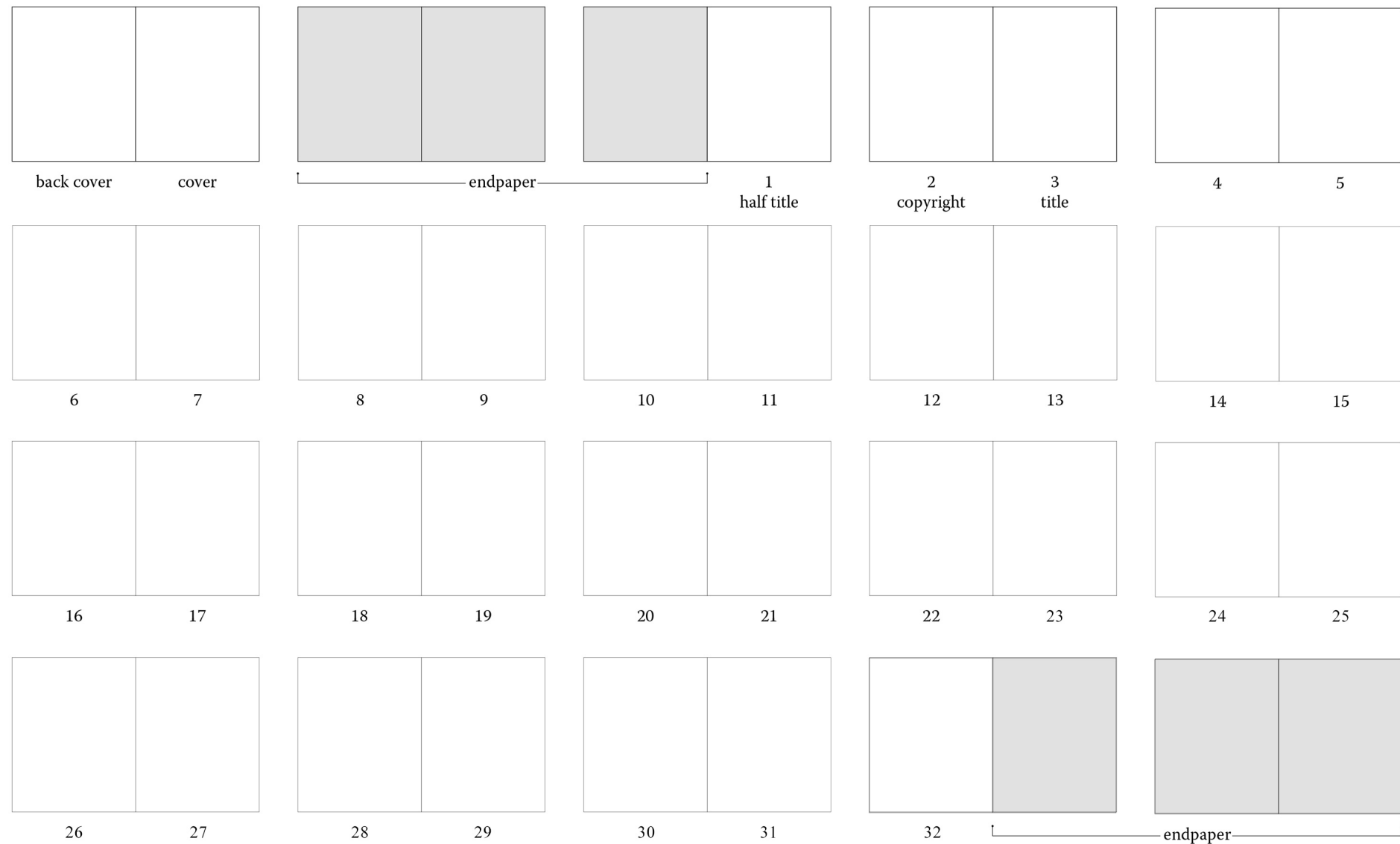
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**Now, let's fit it into  
12-14 spreads.**

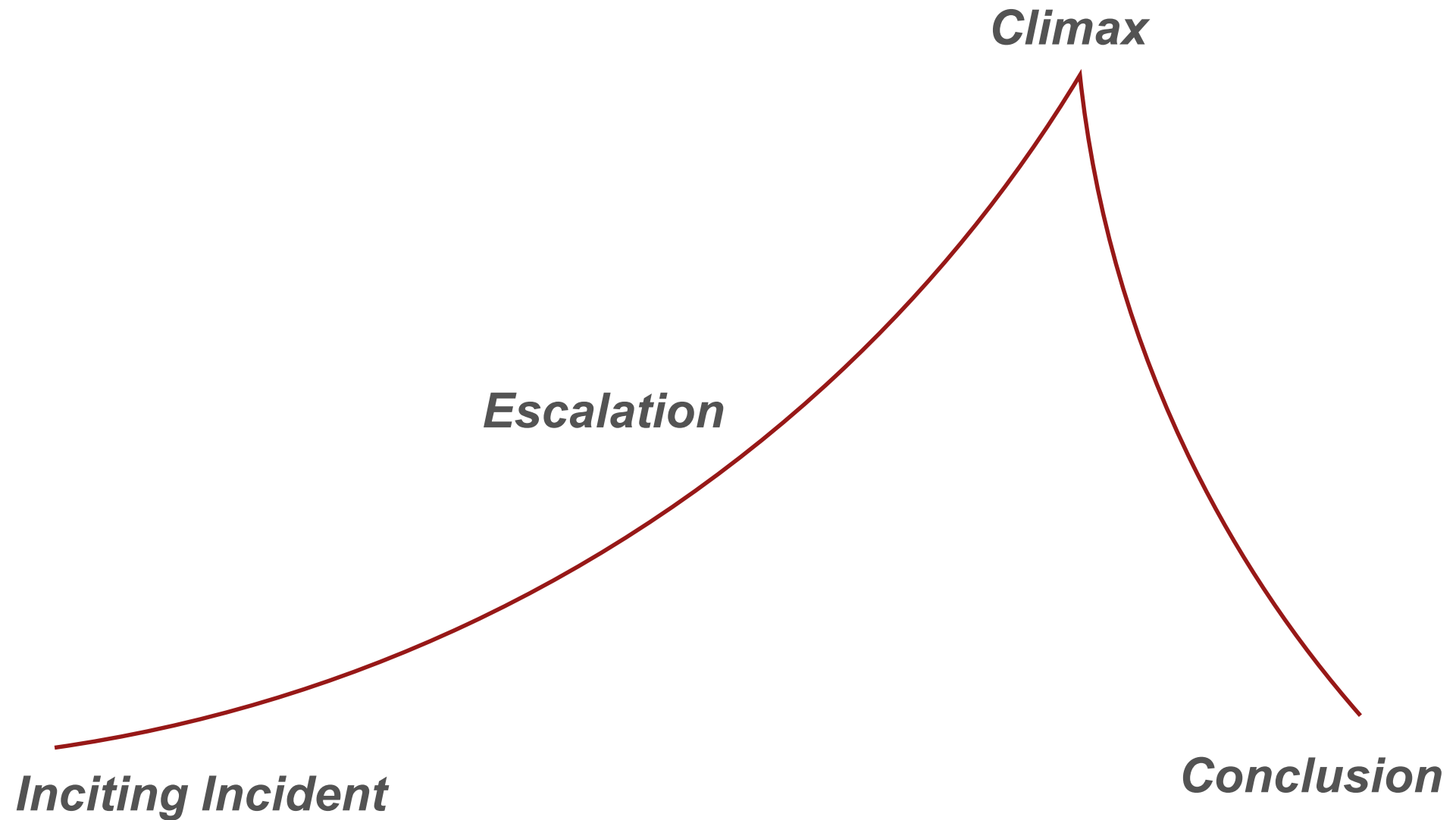


Standard - 32 page layout + endpapers and cover

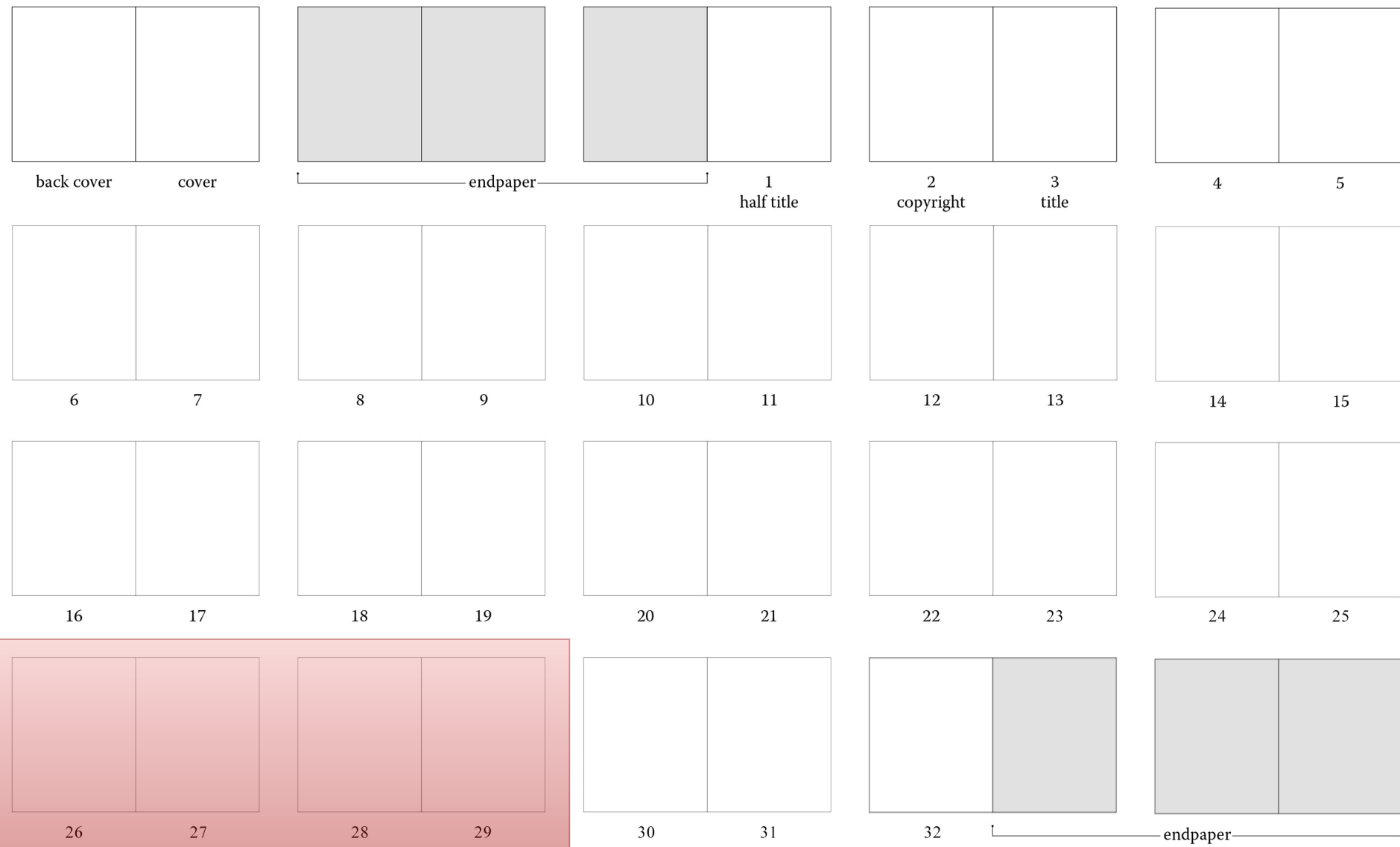


Storyboard available at [Dulemba.com](http://Dulemba.com)

## A Common Story Structure



Standard - 32 page layout + endpapers and cover



Storyboard available at [Dulemba.com](http://Dulemba.com)



**Paco and the Giant Chile Plant**  
 Distributed by Raven Tree Press  
 On behalf of Author Keith Polette

**CONFIDENTIAL MANUSCRIPT**

Reading Level 3.8  
 Word Count 978  
 Format - Embedded Spanish in English text with Spanish appearing in red

Illustrator notes:  
 Colorful and bold, small village more peasantry, folk tale look.

**Paco and the Giant Chile Plant**

4-5  
 "Paco!" called his mother, "we have no food. We have no money. Our pesos are gone. Take the cow to town and sell it."  
 "But *mamá*," said Paco, "the *vaca* is all we have."  
 "I know, my dear," said his mother, "but we have no choice. Now hurry. ¡*Andale, miijo, andale!*"

6-7  
 Paco harnessed the *vaca* and led it down the dusty road. At a dip in the dusty *camino*, Paco met an old man with bright eyes. *El viejo's* eyes twinkled like stars. He held a walking staff and a small bag.  
*El viejo* said, "Good afternoon *joven*. That is a fine *vaca*, young man."  
 "Buenas tardes, *Señor*," replied Paco. "Sí, yes, it is a fine cow, but I must sell her. My mother and I have no money."

8-9  
 "*Joven*," said *el viejo*, his eyes smiling, "if you give me that *vaca*, I will give you this bag."  
 "What is in that *costal*?" asked Paco.  
 "Chile seeds," said *el viejo*, "magic *chile semillas*."  
 "What do the magic *semillas* do?" asked Paco.  
 "Oh ho!" laughed *el viejo*, "if you plant them, you'll see."  
 "Well," said Paco, "I'll take them!"  
*El viejo* handed Paco the *costal*. Paco gave him the *vaca's* leash and scurried home. In a field behind his *casa*, he planted the *chile* seeds.

**STORYBOARD**

Title Page		Printer Info		Ded	
LAYOUT_01		LAYOUT_02		LAYOUT_03	
LAYOUT_04		LAYOUT_05		LAYOUT_06	
LAYOUT_07		LAYOUT_08		LAYOUT_09	
LAYOUT_10		LAYOUT_11		LAYOUT_12	
LAYOUT_13		LAYOUT_14		LAYOUT_15	

# You make a dummy and see how the page turns work.

(If you're an illustrator, you create some artwork for your dummy.)



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**I made dummies. Tons and tons of dummies.**

(These are only a few of them.)



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# Join The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

[SCBWI.org](http://SCBWI.org)



# There, you will learn how to:

Format a manuscript

Submit a manuscript

Who to submit to

Find an agent

Deal with contracts

Perfect your craft

Market your books

Make friends with other like-minded folks.

# You could also get an MFA in Children's Book Writing and Illustrating at Hollins University

(A low residency program, where I teach in the summers.)



<https://www.hollins.edu/academics/graduate-degrees/childrens-literature-graduate-program/>



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**Or, just visit my  
website  
for more advice:  
[dulemba.com](http://dulemba.com)**

(And sign up for my newsletter!)





# Don't believe you can do it?

Here is my publishing journey in a nutshell...

# Day 1: Heard how tough it was.

Took a deep breath and said,  
“Okay, here’s day one!”

# I GOT MY 1st PICTURE BOOK CONTRACT!!!

(after three years)



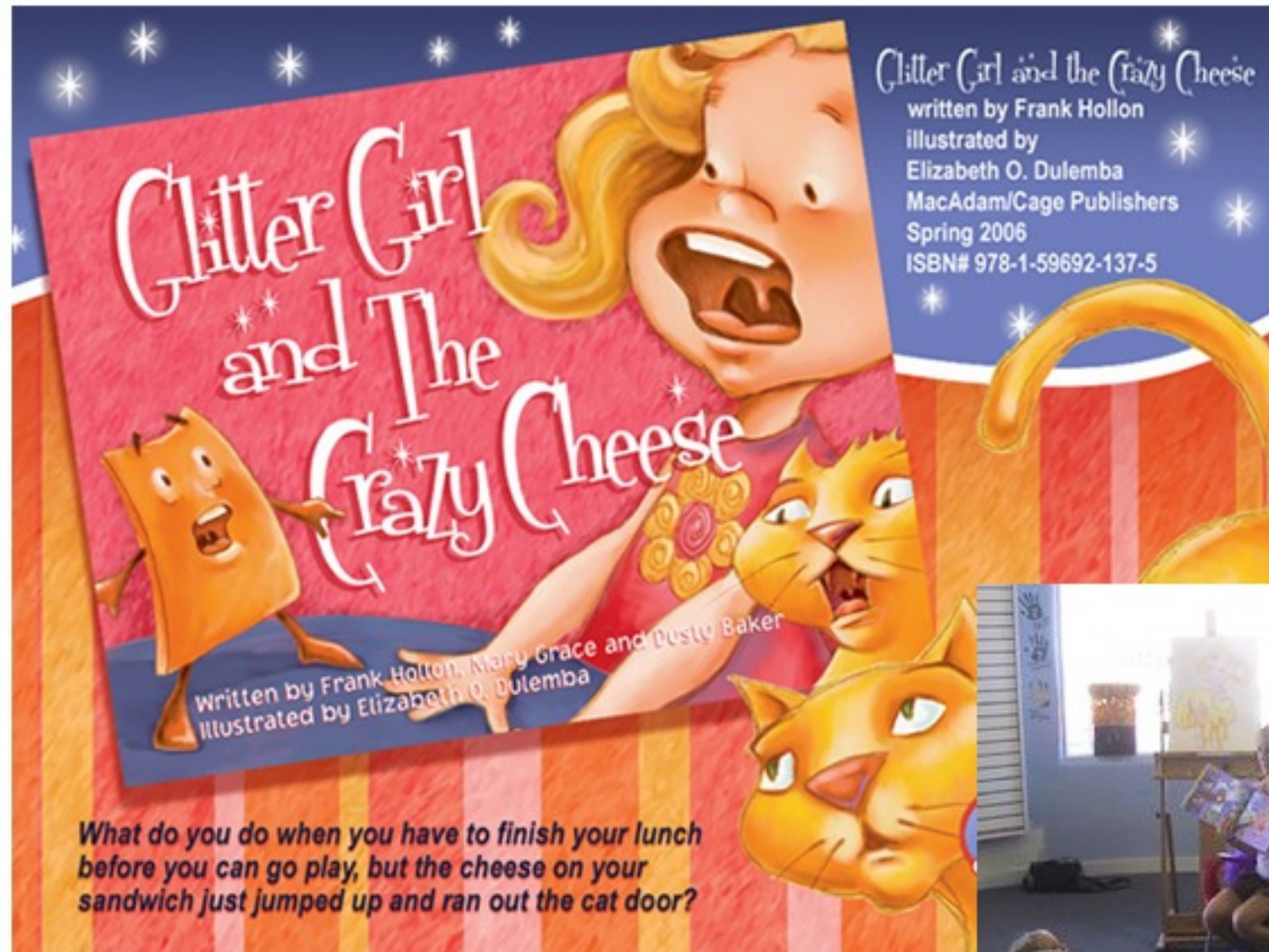
BOOKSELLER  
BOOK  
SENSE  
PICKS





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## And a 2nd!





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**HEAR ME OUT!!**  
**Teens Only!**  
*(grades 6-12)*

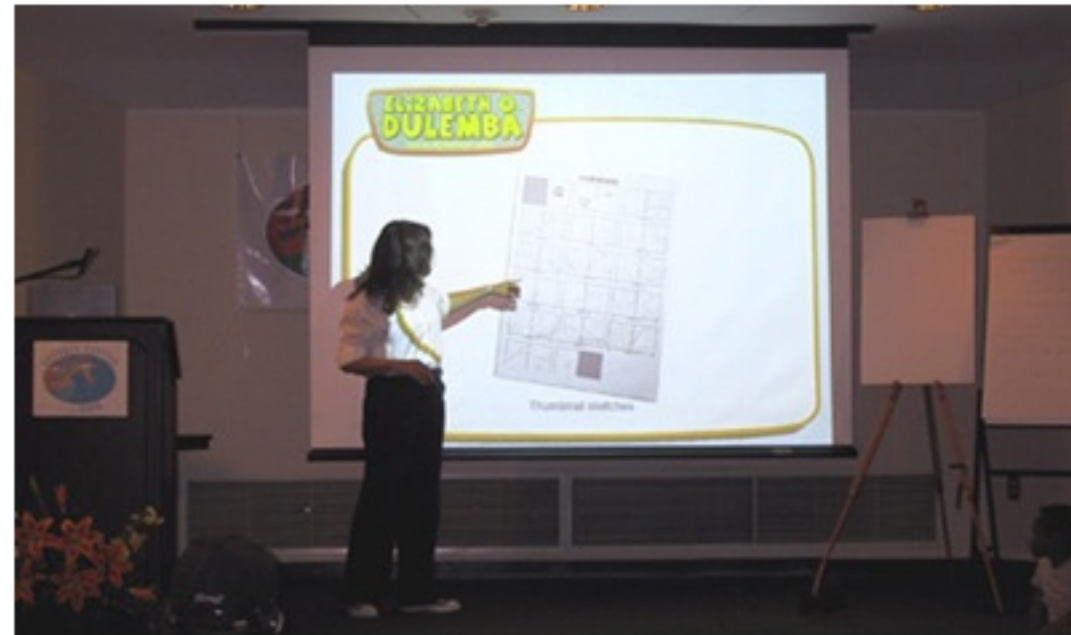
Have you ever wanted to be a writer or an illustrator?  
**This is the Event for YOU!**

Our **AMAZING** guest speakers will tell you their secrets to success!  
Jo Emerson, author  
Elizabeth Pulemba, illustrator  
Brian Stofrecca, graphic artist  
Leslie Harris, cartoonist  
Greg Chagnon, author, creative writing teacher

Sunday, 2/12  
1 to 3 PM  
MJCCA, Zaban Park  
5942 Tilly Mill Road,  
Pumwoody, 90998

**FREE!**

*Hang out at our writers and illustrators cafe!*





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**I did several more books and  
sold my first book as author/illustrator!**  
(Seven years in.)



## Coloring Page Tuesdays

To encourage the public to learn about my books I create a new coloring page every week for teachers, librarians, booksellers and parents to enjoy with their children.

It is my best marketing move with:

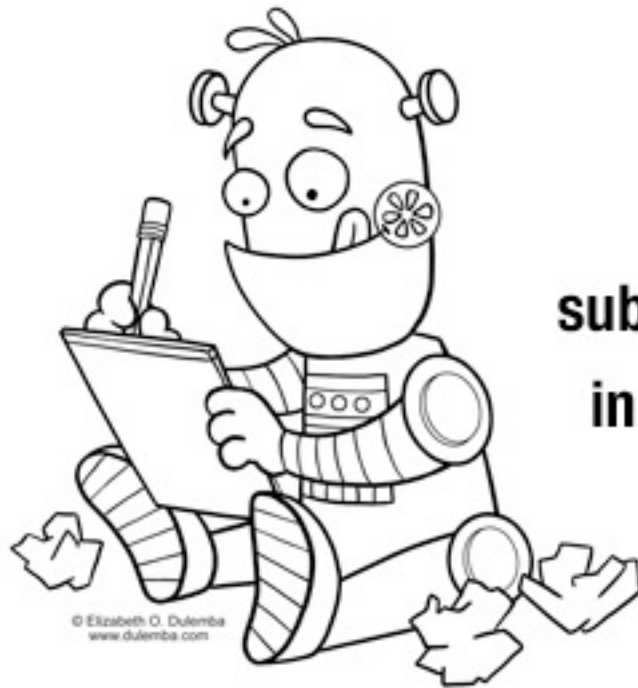
**1.5 million visitors in 2010**

**and nearly 4,000**

**subscribers to my weekly newsletter**

**in which I also do peer interviews,**

**guest posts, and giveaways.**





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# I did more public speaking

Conferences  
Colleges  
Festivals  
Schools  
Events





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## Over 10,000 Downloads

One of the first Children's Book Apps Available,  
which eventually became a book  
through a traditional, but newly  
modeled publishing house.





# Several books died for one reason or another.

(Books do that sometimes.)





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*Wrote my first novel...*

**Georgia Author of the Year**



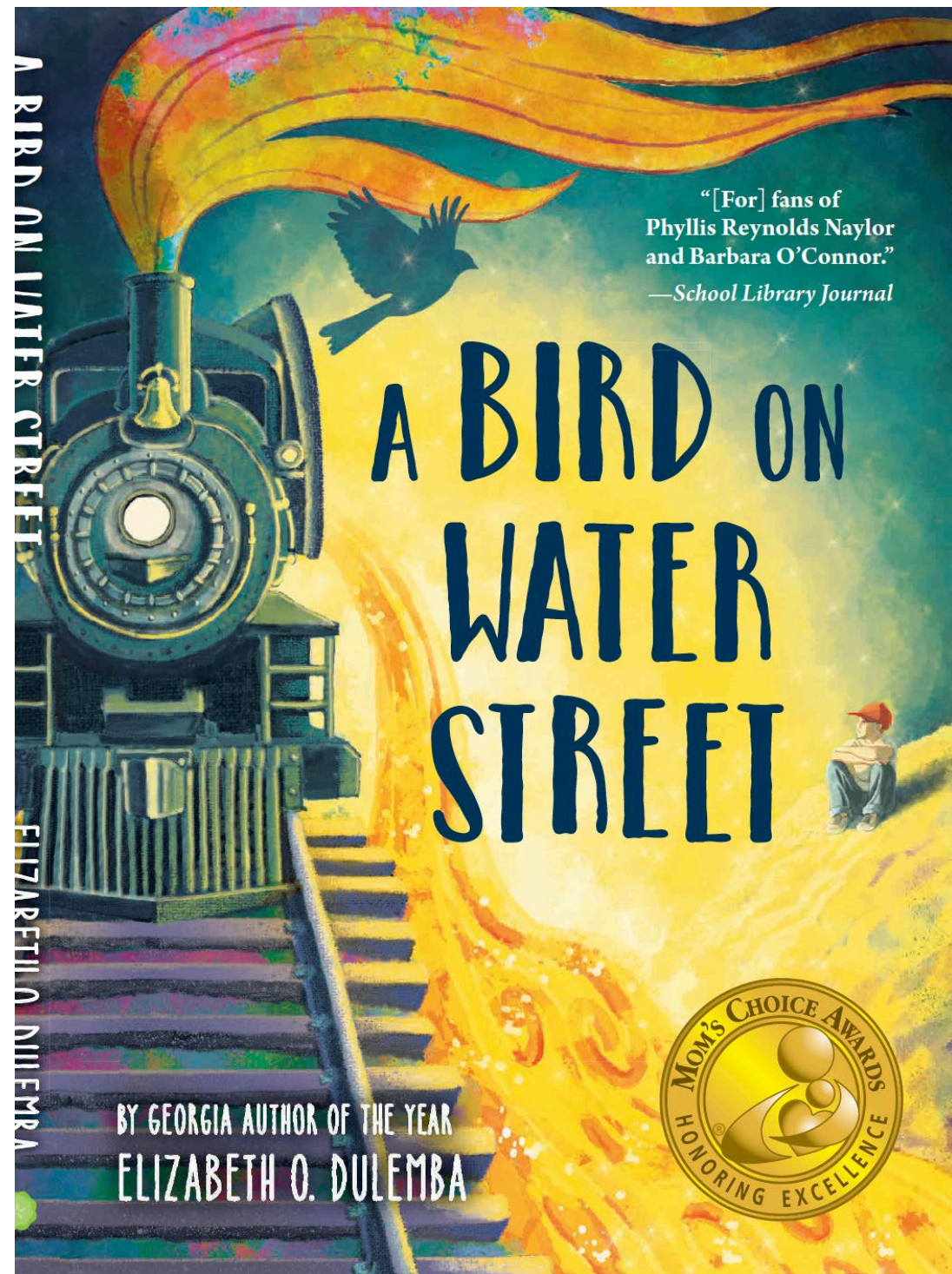
English



Chinese



Vietnamese





## More books came along...



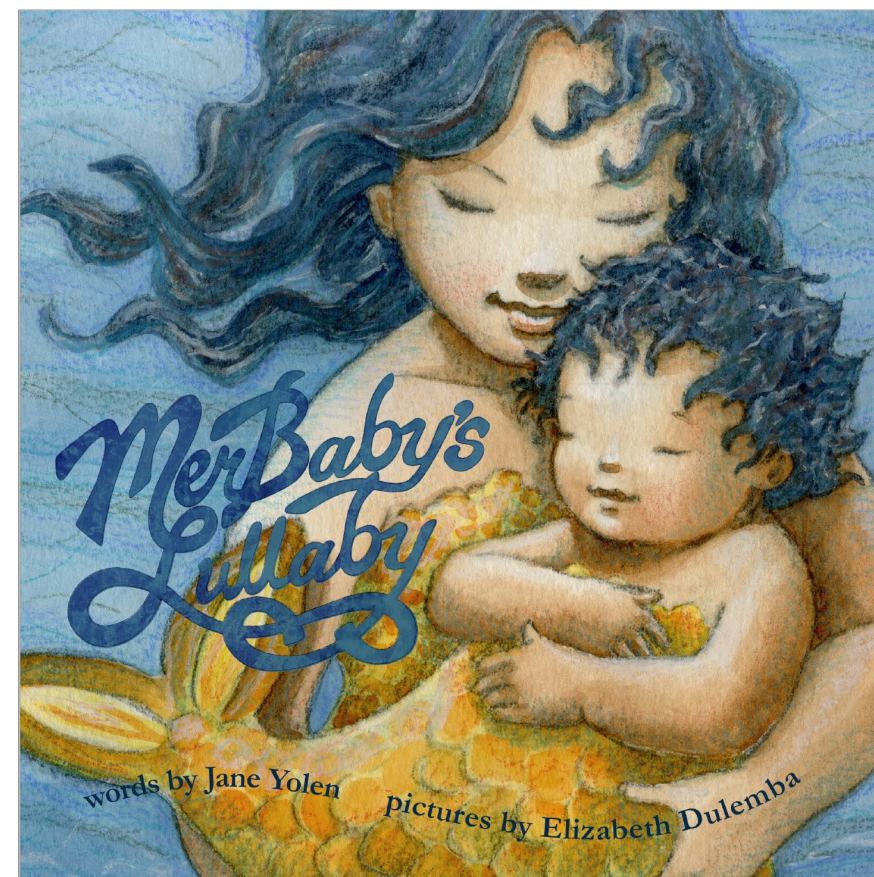
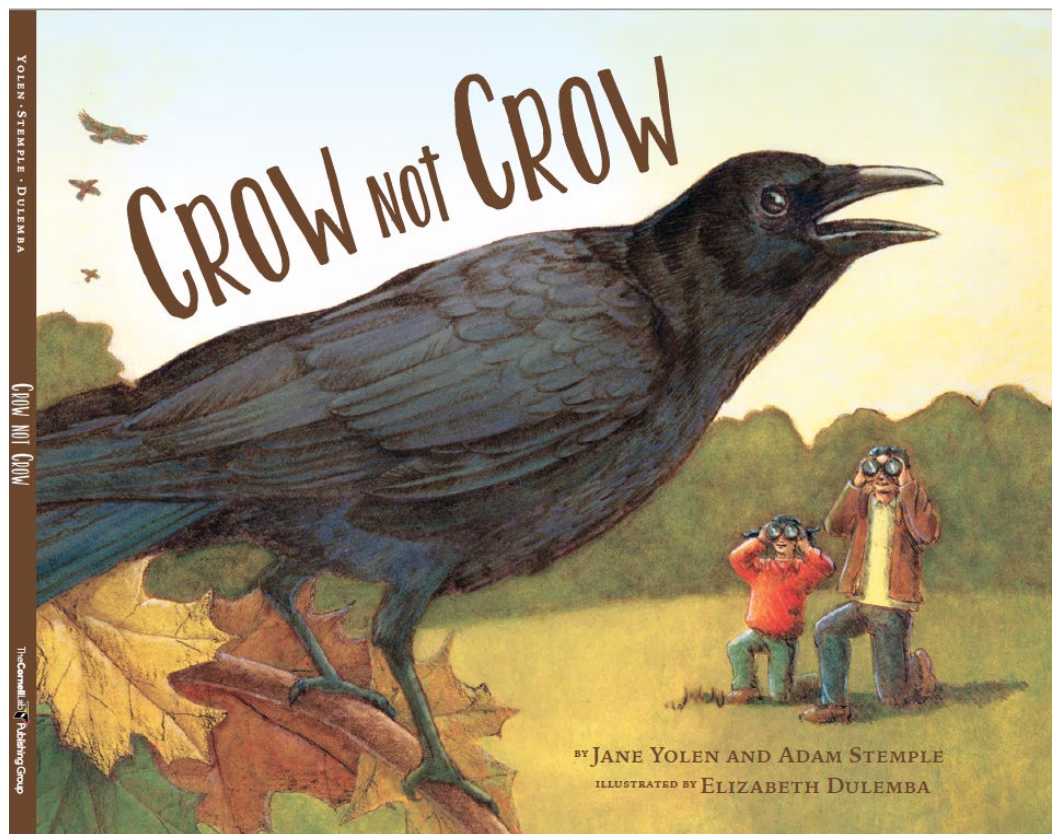


## Collaborated with Jane Yolen: mentor, friend, career-maker





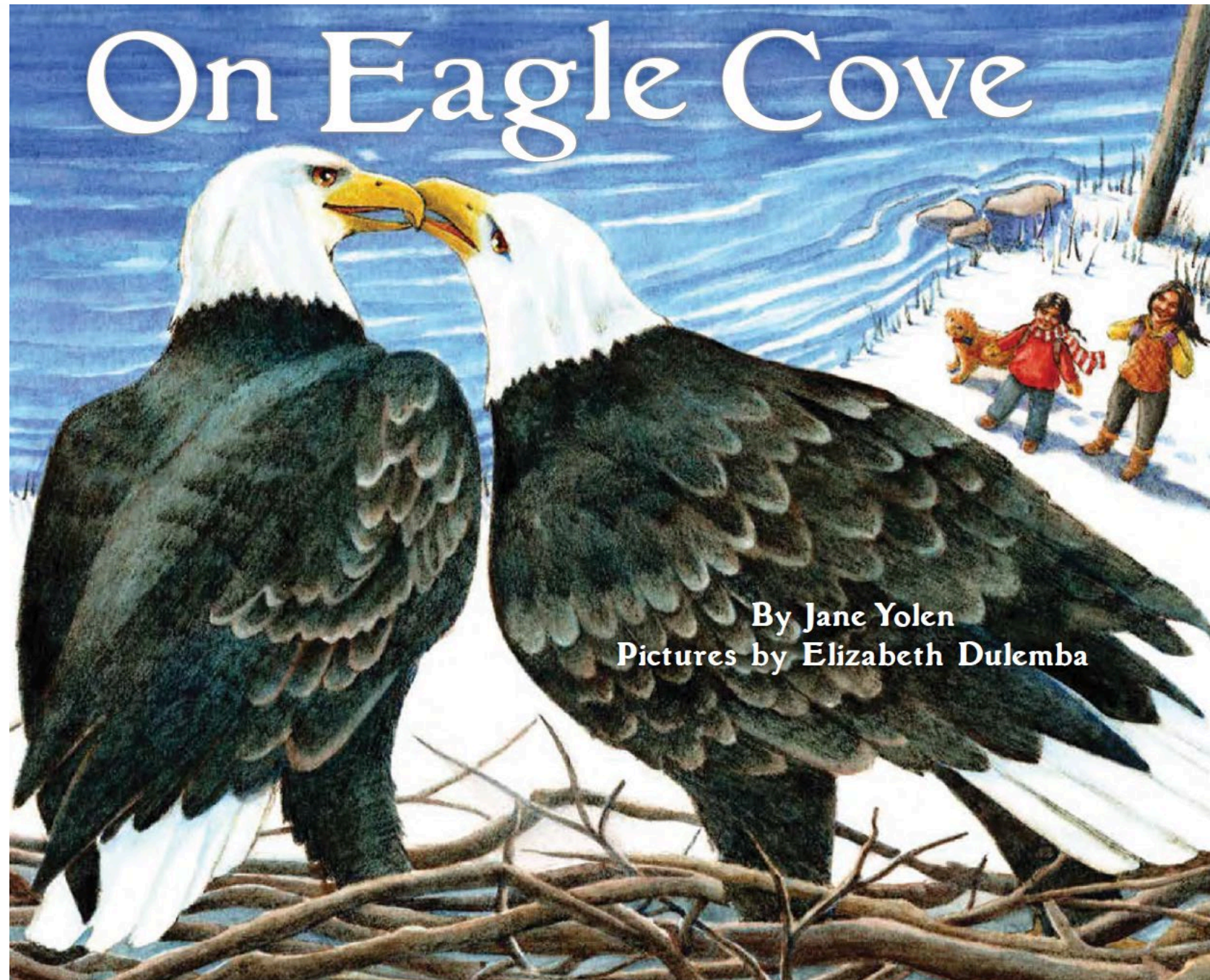
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# On Eagle Cove



By Jane Yolen  
Pictures by Elizabeth Dulemba



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Post-pandemic work  
to start soon,  
I hope, for  
**ON OWL FARM**





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# Elizabeth Dulemba

a.k.a. 

[Home/Current Projects](#) [Bio](#) [Books](#) [Events](#) [Ted Talk](#) [Coloring Pages](#) [Contacts](#) [Resources](#) [Blog](#)

