

# Beyond Storytelling:

## Dreaming, crafting and creating a Christian Children's Book

Beyond Storytelling is an introduction to Christian Children's Book, a new LTC event for 2008! For this event, participants will work as an individual or team to produce a children's book reflecting the current LTC theme. In this workshop we will cover how to write, illustrate, create and construct a book geared toward children with a Christian message.

### **What is the difference between Christian Children's Book and Christian Fiction?**

Much is different between these two events, mainly, your reading audience. Children's Book should be written at a level that a young child or baby would understand and/or be captivated by. Also, Children's Books are illustrated (pictures with the words) and often hand made. There is a big creative crafting element to making a children's book, thus why teams can participate in this event. Generally speaking, writing and artistic skills come from different parts of the brain so in this event, teams can be an asset.

### **Where do I start?**

Next time you are in a library or book store take some time to look at the children's section and find a book or two that you like. Ask yourself a few questions:

- Why am I drawn to this book?
- What makes this book special?
- How did the author and illustrator make or construct this book?

Next look at the library or book store's craft books. Many times you can find books that will show you how to make your own pop-ups, how to draw cartoon characters, how to make greeting cards (these are great for cover ideas), how to write a comic, how to sew (for making a soft fabric book) and many other books on various crafts.

### **Now I have an idea!**

Great! The next step is to sit down and write your short story. If you are working with a team make sure everyone is there to brain storm together, even if some have chosen only to draw your illustrations. Remember, you are a team, get everyone involved. ***Don't forget your book should be glorifying to God. Make sure your story idea is focused on sharing God's word and sharing Christian themes with your readers!***

### **Ok the story is written, what's next?**

Now you must break up your story into pages. Things to remember:

- You need room for your illustrations.
- Make sure the page breaks make sense (i.e. don't spread a single sentence across several pages).
- Each page that will have an illustration will need to get a sense of a scene from the writing.

### **Picture Time!**

Now its time for illustrating. Again, sit down and brainstorm (with your team if you have one) and begin one page at a time. It may help to picture each page as a scene to get an idea for your drawings. Now you can begin sketching. Make sure the illustrations are nice and neat for your finished product and remember, these books will be seen, read and handled by children. ***Make sure you use drawing materials and paper that won't smudge! For extra protection, try laminating or covering the pages with clear plastic so your book won't be ruined.***

### **You don't have to know how to draw to be an illustrator.**

There are many other ways to illustrate a book without knowing how to draw. How about photography? Or if you are handy with scissors take construction paper and cut it into basic shapes. Using a circle, triangle and four thin rectangles you can create a girl stick-figure. Use a big green circle and long brown rectangle and viola! You just created a tree. This technique can also be used with soft fabric books as well. Just use fabric instead of construction paper.

### **Run for cover!**

Well, we won't be running, but the cover of your story is a very important part of your book construction. Remember, the cover is the first thing your readers will see. "You can't judge a book by it's cover" but many people do. Make sure yours is neatly made and coveys a basic idea of what your story is about. Also, the cover must be durable. Books need extra protection because, after all, it is just paper!

### **Other types of books**

There are many different types of materials and techniques that can be use to create a children's book. Here are a few ideas:

- *Soft Fabric* - Use fabric and batting to create a book. Get printable iron on transfer paper or printable fabric for the wording, both can be printed on just like paper using your computer printer. You can also use fabric paint or pre-made iron on letters available at any craft store.
- *Ready Made Blank Books* - Look at craft or school supply stores for ready made blank books. These are generally white book blanks bound professionally ready for your drawings and story. They can also be purchased online at: <http://www.barebooks.com/>
- *Pop-up Books* - There are several great books that available to teach the art of paper folding and pop-ups.
- *Flip Book* - Tell a story with just pictures by creating a flip book. This type of book creates a sort of 'movie' as it is quickly flipped through. Example: <http://www.zuzu.org/printout.html>
- *Comic Book* - Draw and create a comic strip book. Check out: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/comics/027002-6000-e.html>

## **Have Fun and Glorify God!**

Remember this is suppose to be fun. Get creative and enjoy even getting a bit messy. Don't forget, creating these books is a great new way to introduce Jesus to the many people outside of church walls who may not know the Lord, so don't be shy, get on out there and create!

### **Online Resources:**

There are numerous resources online beyond what's listed here. If you can't find what you need, try using a search engine like Google, Yahoo or MSN. The possibilities are endless!

- *Make You Own Book:*  
<http://library.thinkquest.org/J001156/makingbooks/makeown.htm>
- *Making Books with Children:*  
<http://www.makingbooks.com/freeprojects.shtml>
- *Make a Paper Bag Book:*  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/books/comicbook/>
- *Make Your Own Comic Book:*  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/books/comicbook/>
- *Pre-made book blanks - with shapes:*  
<http://tinyurl.com/yv9fxs>
- *Pre-made book blanks - with special covers:*  
<http://www.barebooks.com/>
- *Creative Publishing Book Designs:*  
<http://teacherweb.com/tx/cadwallader/cchavez/index.html>
- *Flip Book:*  
<http://www.zuzu.org/printout.html>
- *Piano Hinge Skewer Book:*  
<http://www.drstamping.com/skewerbook.html>
- *Accordion Book:*  
<http://www.drstamping.com/accordion1.html>
- *Shape-Book Patterns:*  
[http://www.eduplace.com/rdg/hme/k\\_5/shapebook/toc.html](http://www.eduplace.com/rdg/hme/k_5/shapebook/toc.html)
- *Creative Books and Crafts:*  
<http://www.kizclub.com/animalcrafts.htm>
- *Mini-Books, Flaps, Folds and More!*  
[http://www.canby.com/hockmanchupp/student\\_folder\\_websites.html](http://www.canby.com/hockmanchupp/student_folder_websites.html)
- *How to Make a Pop-up:*  
<http://www.makersgallery.com/joanirvine/howto.html>
- *Castel Pop-up:*  
<http://www.dickblick.com/lessonplans/castles/>