

## CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

Richard Jesse Watson, Author/Illustrator of Children's Books

"A man is most nearly himself when he achieves the seriousness of a child at play." - Heraclitus

"Angels fly because they take themselves lightly"-Chesterton

"Children fly because they still remember how"-R.J.Watson

### WHICH COMES FIRST, THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

Images inspire words and words spark pictures. In a picture book words and pictures come together to form a seamless whole. Words tell the essence of the story, leaving room for pictures to create the stage that the words play upon.

### PICTURE BOOK VISUALIZING TOOLS:

Thumbnails: character and concept sketches (in words or in pictures)

Storyboards: mapping the story sequence

Book Dummy: mock book - made of folded paper

**BEST ADVICE:** Read, read, read and jot thoughts: take notes on life

"Consult Nature in everything and write it down... memory is not that huge." - Leonardo daVinci

### SPARKING THE IMAGINATION:

*Brainstorming.* Begin by tossing everything into the hopper. Gather **every** idea no matter how odd. Ask open-ended questions:

What if? Why couldn't? Can you imagine?

### CRAFTING THE WORK:

*Editing.* Refine a text by tossing everything out of the hopper (except the good stuff). For artwork, replace rough sketches with finished art.

### BOOKS ILLUSTRATED BY RICHARD JESSE WATSON:

*The Boy Who Went Ape*, by Benjamin J Watson, Scholastic 2008

*The Night Before Christmas*, by Clement C, Moore, HarperCollins

*The Magic Rabbit*, by Richard Jesse Watson, Scholastic/Blue Sky Press

*The Legend of Saint Christopher*, retold by Margaret Hodges, Eerdmans

*The Waterfall's Gift*, by Joanne Ryder, Sierra Club Books for Children/ Gibbs Smith

*One Wintry Night*, by Ruth Bell Graham, Baker Books

*The High Rise Glorious Skittle Skat Roarious Sky Pie Angel Food Cake*, by Nancy Willard, Harcourt

### The following RJW out-of-print books available through some online book sites ([www.Bookfinder.com](http://www.Bookfinder.com)):

*Tom Thumb*, by RJ Watson -Harcourt, hardcover ISBN 0-15-289280-X

*The Dream Stair*, by Betsy James, illustrated by Richard Jesse Watson, HarperCollins, ISBN 0-06-022787-7

*Bronwen, the Traw and the Shape-Shifter*, by James Dickey illustrated by Richard Jesse Watson, Harcourt Inc, ISBN 0-15-212580-9

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