



LET'S  
WRITE A  
STORY

# STEPS

Idea: **What is your story about?**

Make a Quick Story Board

Write the Story: **3 Part Story Mountain**

1st Edit: **Macro**

Macro Edits: fix plot, story structure, scenes, character changes

Type the Story

(If you haven't already)

2nd Edit: **Micro**

Micro Edits: sentence level edits, formatting, grammar, spelling, punctuation

Trim Size, Page Count, Paper/Hardback

KDP: Paperback - Minimum of 24 pg.

Hardcover 76 pg Minimum

Decide on Illustrations

Watercolor, graphics, pencil, charcoal, markers, acrylics, crayons

Begin Illustrations/Cover Design Last

Find Beta Readers

Get an outsider's perspective: teacher, parent, friend, etc. to read your story and give you their feedback. This is a HUGE help to polish your book!

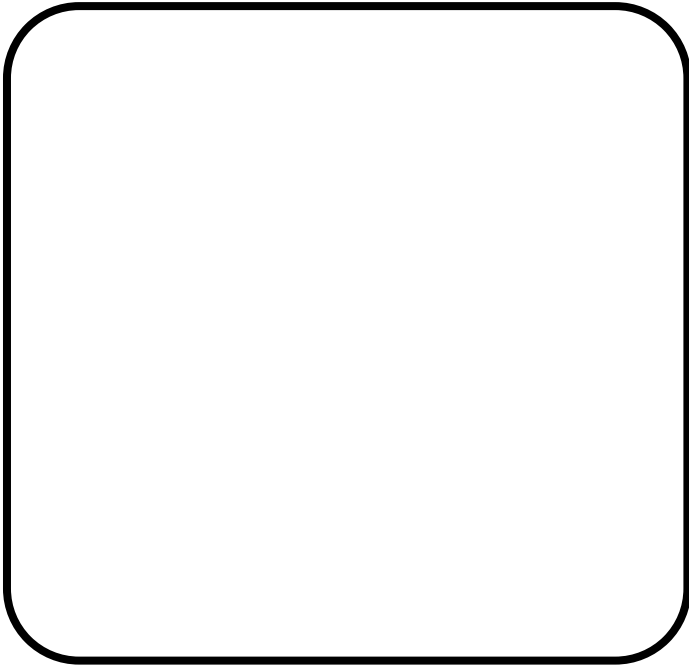
Scan/Upload Illustrations into Computer

(if not using digital graphics)

# IDEAS.....

1. Poems
2. A favorite pet
3. A favorite vacation
4. What you love about a favorite holiday
5. Your own cookbook - family favorites
6. Photography - your best pictures
7. I Spy book
8. Nature story with leaves, sticks, rocks, etc.
9. Something funny you or a sibling did
10. A time when you were scared
11. If you were an animal, adventures you had
12. A Legacy project, favorite memories with someone
13. You found a map in the wall when you remodeled...
14. A campout with friends and it starts to storm...
15. You lived in the 1800's or insert year
16. You can talk to animals
17. You have a special power, what do you do with it?
18. You all of sudden have a twin
19. Painting/Artwork Collection Printed book
20. You sneak aboard a rocket to the Space Station

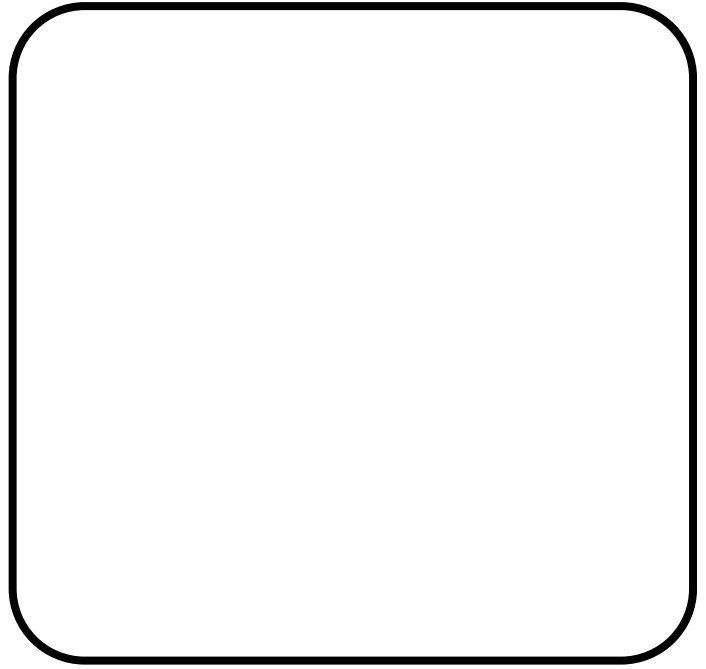
# IDEAS.....



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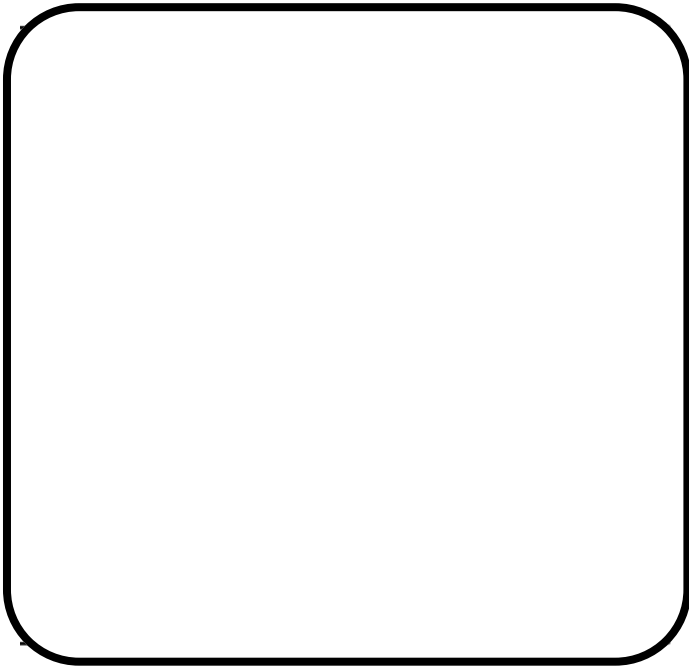
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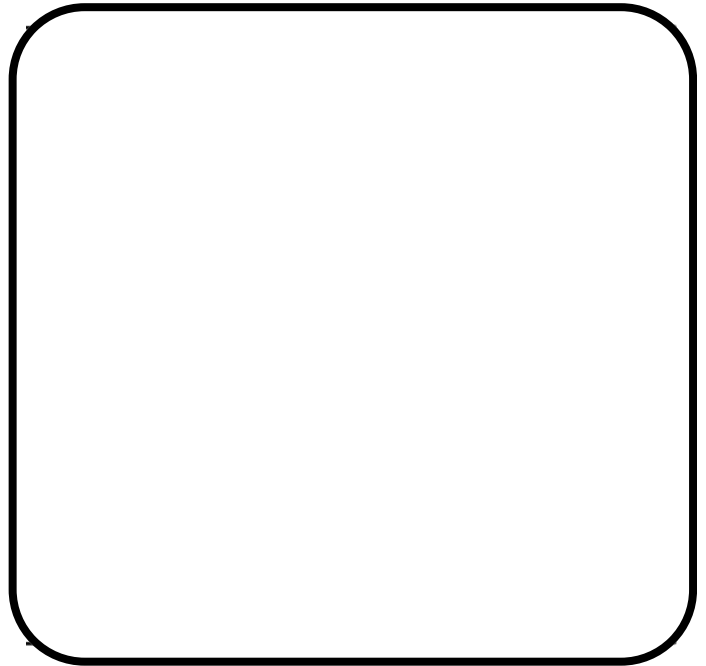
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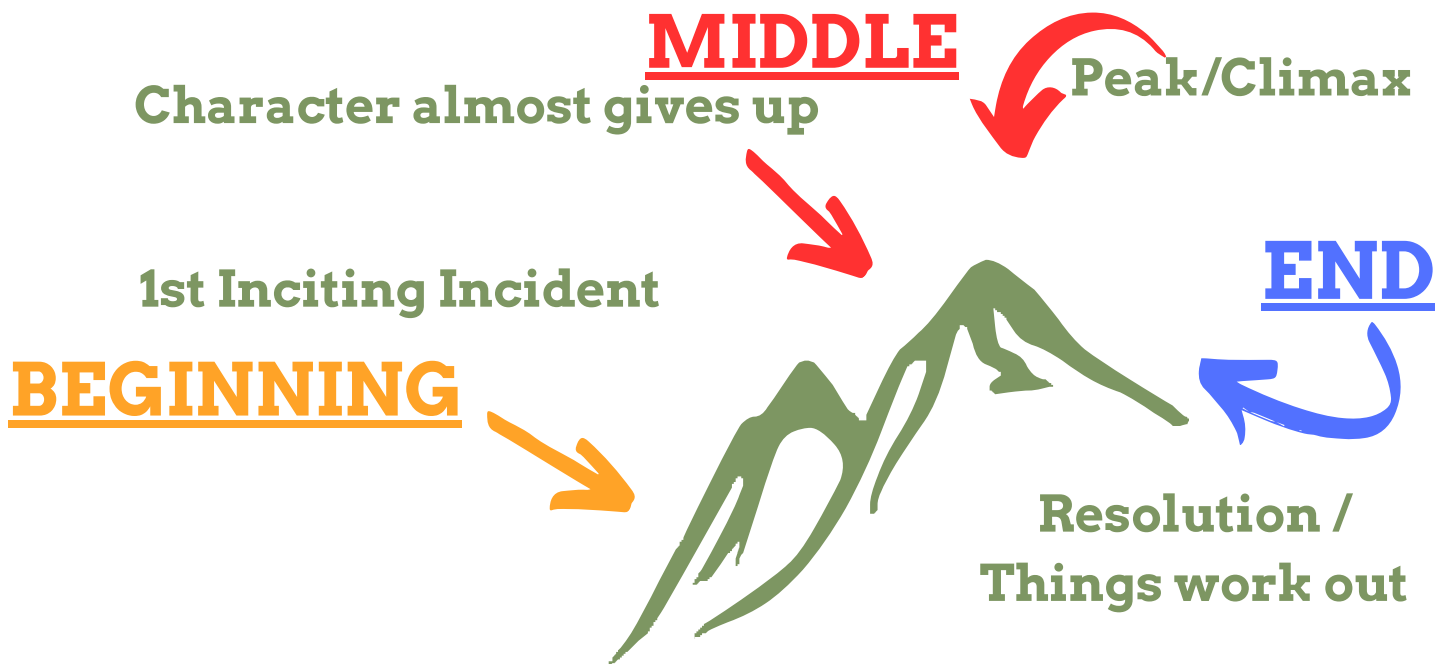
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# WRITING ....

**Show Don't Tell:** Use descriptive words to make a mental picture that you can see just by reading the words.

Have a 3 main parts to your “story mountain”

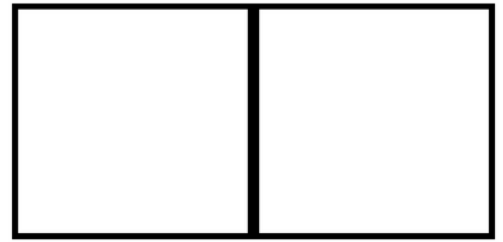
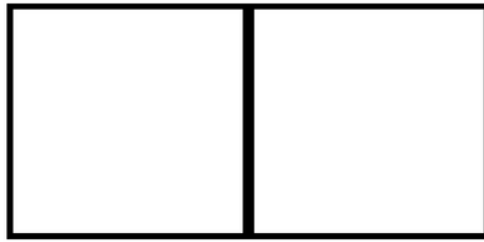
## STORY MOUNTAIN



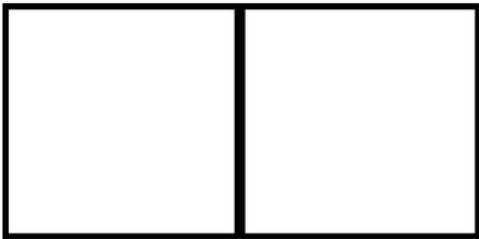
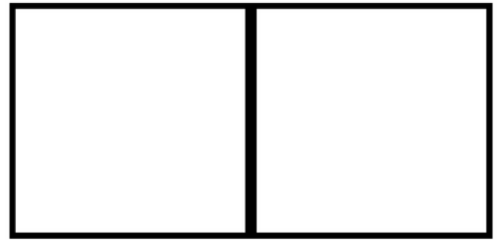
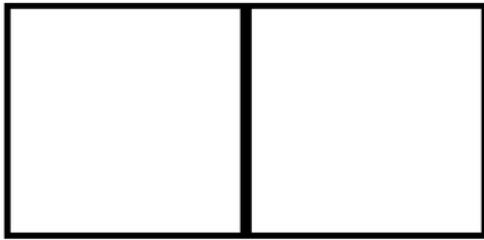
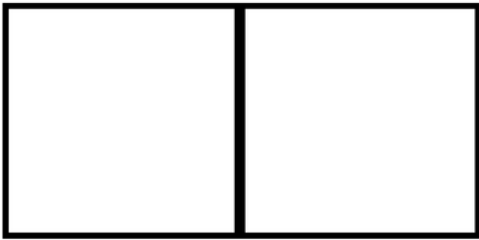
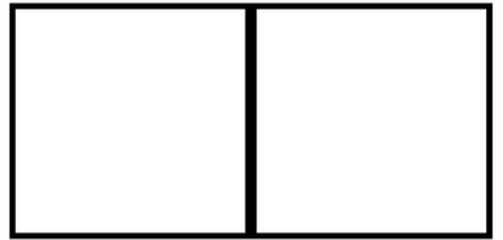
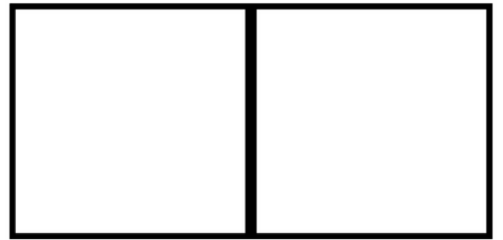
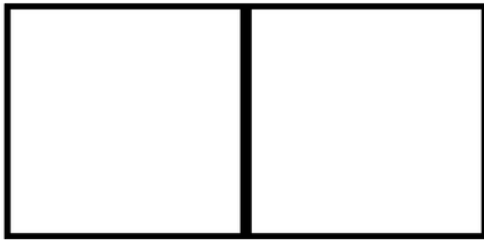
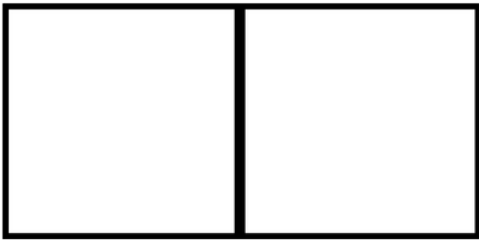
1. **Beginning:** Meet the characters, setting, show a typical day
2. **Middle: Problem Happens** - Some sort of obstacle happens, a problem arises, this is the longest part of the story. Explain all the things the character tries to do to solve this problem, even failing at first.
  - a. **Character almost gives up:** seems like the hero cannot go on
  - b. **Peak/Climax:** The character(s) have a breakthrough and figure out how to solve the problem(s).
3. **End:** All of the story lines/characters get closure/solutions. You can leave some little things unanswered here for another story in the future.

# 32 Page Picture Book: Rough Thumbnails

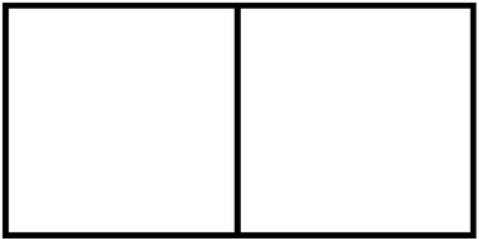
Title Page



Dedication/  
Copyright



Dedication/  
Copyright



You may print for your own use.

# PLOT GUIDE



1

## MAIN PROBLEM

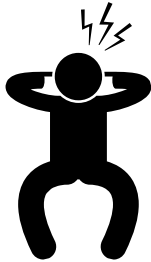
Introduce the problem quickly



2

## FIRST OBSTACLE

something gets in the way of the character reaching their goal



3

## MORE OBSTACLES

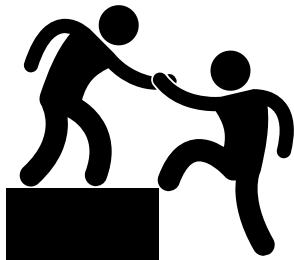
Each obstacle should become more difficult



4

## CHARACTER GIVES UP

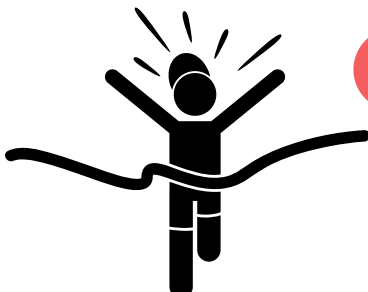
The character can't solve the main problem and considers giving up



5

## BREAKTHROUGH

The character has an idea or another friendly character shows them the solution



6

## PROBLEM SOLVED

The main problem is resolved and leads to a happy ending

# CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Name of Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

## Big Picture

Appearance: (Hair Color, Eyes, Skin, Height, etc.)  
Draw a picture

## Background

Age:  
Gender:  
Hometown:  
Where the character is now:  
Family:  
Education:  
Occupation:  
Religion:

## Personality

Strengths:  
Weaknesses:  
Flaws:  
Fears:  
Skills:  
Secrets:

## Deeper Questions

Something they really care about:  
Biggest regrets:  
Biggest accomplishments:  
Goals:

## Timeline

Birthday:  
Time in history:  
Things happening in history:



# EDITING

## MACRO

- Make sure your story structure flows/makes sense.
- Map out your hero's character/who are they?
- Does the story have a story mountain?
- Get Beta Readers

## MICRO

- Direct and Indirect Quotations
- Spelling
- Correct Capitalization and Abbreviations
- Correct Punctuation
- Voice
- Powerful Vocabulary
- Formatting
- Run it through Grammarly or English teacher/parent

# ILLUSTRATIONS

## A.I.

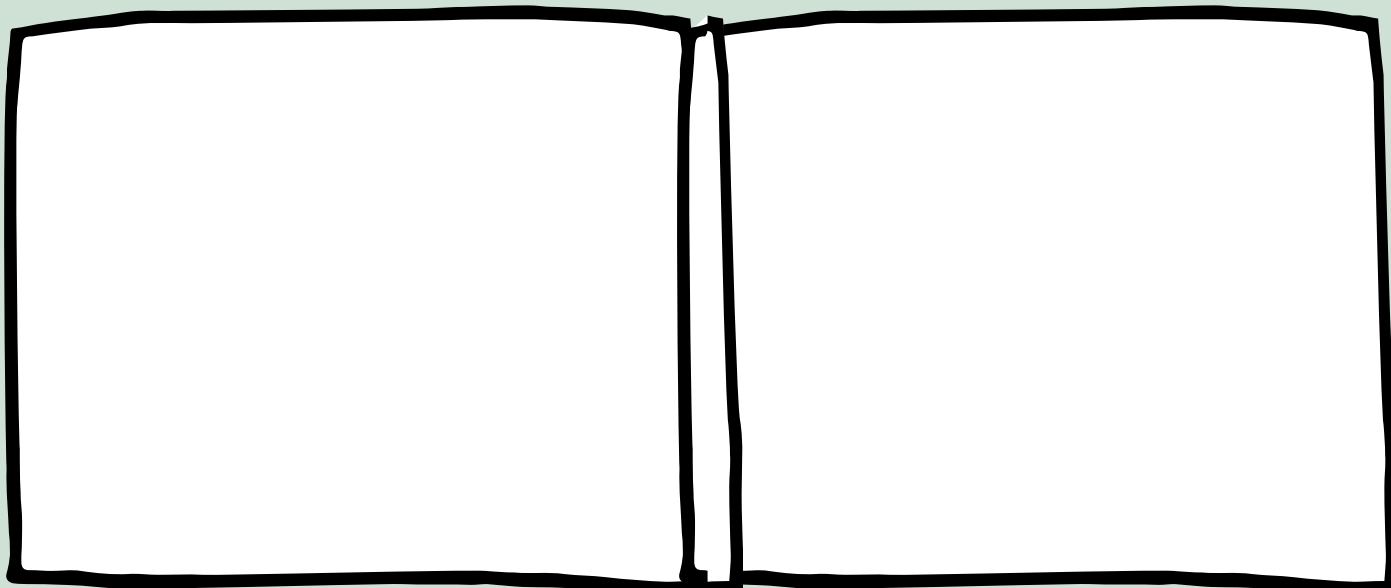
- Depending on licensing/copyright, may be illegal
- Difficult to make same character in different poses/clothes/settings
- Opinion: not as personal

## YOU

- Full creative control
- Easy to make changes
- Many options
- You own the copyright
- Opinion: more personal

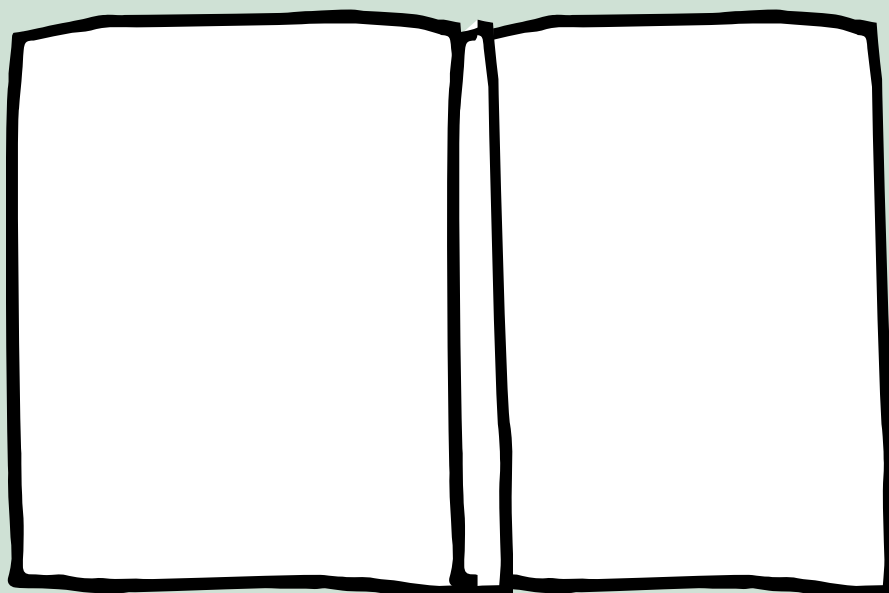
BACK COVER

FRONT COVER



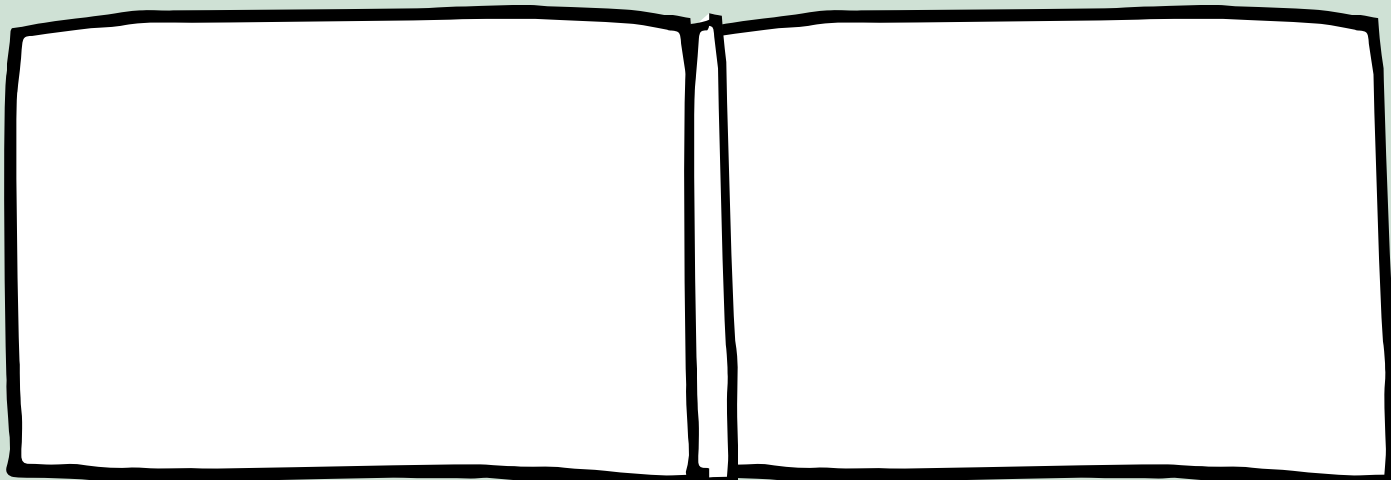
BACK  
COVER

FRONT  
COVER



BACK COVER

FRONT COVER



# FORMATTING

- Children's, Recipe, Photography, Graphic Novel Books:
  - Word, Google Docs, etc. to write the content (FREEish)
  - **Simplest: Canva.com for pulling it all together (FREE)**
  - More In-Depth: Adobe In-Design (\$240/yr)
- Chapter Books:
  - Can Use Word, but can be difficult
  - **Atticus: \$147 (Mac & PC) - Simple, most options**
  - Scrivener: \$59 (Mac & PC) - Simple, low cost
  - Vellum: \$249 (Mac Only) - Simple, but Mac Only
  - Adobe InDesign: (\$240/yr) - Comprehensive, Costly
- Youtube how to use each one \*

# PUBLISHING PLATFORMS

- Amazon KDP - 1 PDF File of individual pages RGB, JPG of cover
- IngramSpark - 1 PDF File of all separate pages CMYK, JPG Cover
- Draft2Digital
- Lulu

## Pros

- All have Free ISBNs
- No upload fee

## Cons

- Not as user friendly (IngramSpark, Draft2Digital, Lulu)
- Not as wide of range of distribution (Draft2Digital, Lulu, KDP)
- Print On Demand services more expensive (not KDP)



# BOOK PLANNER



Priority


Name

Month

Year

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN


NOTE...







# BOOK PLANNER



Priority


Name

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MON

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SUN


NOTE...



# FORMATTING & UPLOADING

**USE CANVA FOR FORMATTING PAGES**

**USE KDP AND UPLOAD FINISHED POLISHED WORK**

**CAN TAKE 72 HOURS FOR AMAZON TO APPROVE FOR SALE**

## **Canva Links:**

[Canva.com](https://www.canva.com) Sign up

[How To Create & Upload](#)

[Page Bleed & Double Pages](#)

[How to Create a Journal](#)

## **KDP Links:**

[How to Upload to KDP](#)

[KDP template for cover/pages](#)

[How to write a children's book steps](#)

## **Storyboard Download**

## **More Detailed Written Steps**

**Email me:** [HomespunStoriesPress@gmail.com](mailto:HomespunStoriesPress@gmail.com)