



# HOW TO ILLUSTRATE YOUR CHILDRENS BOOK.

## ILLUSTRATING YOUR CHILDRENS BOOK IS A KEY TO YOUR PUBLISHING PROJECT'S SUCCESS

Children's books are ever in demand and self-publishing is a sure-fire way of making it a reality.

With self-publishing you have full control of the entire process. You can write, illustrate, design, print and distribute/market the book just the way you want.

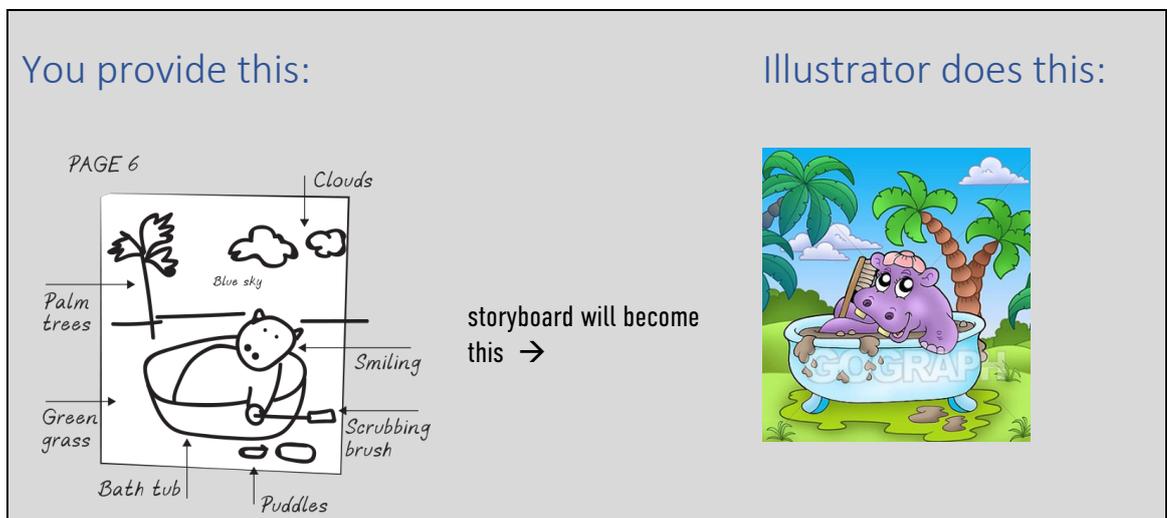
A common problem childrens book publishers have is how to produce quality illustrations at an affordable price.

Professional Illustrators can charge up to \$500 per illustration. If you need 30 illustrations, that for most, is a prohibitive amount.

**So here's a solution,** follow these tips in sequence.

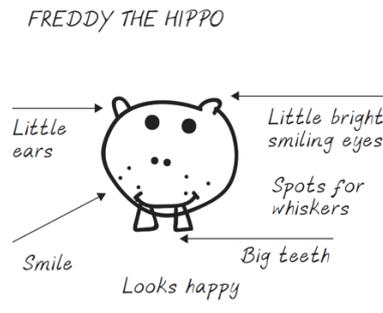
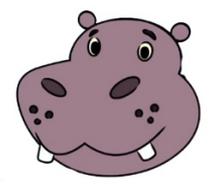
**Tip 1** Make sure your text (the manuscript) is final.

**Tip 2** Produce a **storyboard**. A storyboard is a crude hand-drawn example of what illustrations you want. For example, the author below has done a storyboard and then the illustrator has translated that into an illustration ready to include in the book.



You will need to scan the storyboard pictures and provide them to the illustrator. Make sure to identify the page number/sequence of the illustrations.

**Tip 3** First do a detailed storyboard of the main character(s). Get the illustrator to do this first (before starting any other illustrations). An example is shown below:

You provide this:	Illustrator does this:	
<p>FREDDY THE HIPPO</p>  <p>Little ears</p> <p>Little bright, smiling eyes</p> <p>Spots for whiskers</p> <p>Smile</p> <p>Big teeth</p> <p>Looks happy</p>	storyboard will become this →	

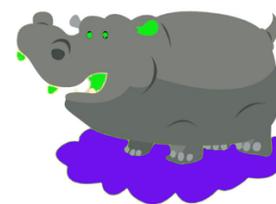
**Tip 4** Consider having at least some illustrations done that have a white background. This takes the illustrator a lot less time to do and will be cheaper. An example is provided below:



**Tip 5** Try to find an illustrator that does their drawing on a computer as opposed to drawing and colouring an illustration on paper with ink and paints. This is because altering a computer illustration is easier and quicker. If you are not happy with an illustration done on paper with ink and paint, the illustrator will take a lot of time and extra costs to change it.



can easily become this, if done on a computer →



## Tip 6 How to find an Illustrator

**Someone you know** – a relative, a friend or someone local. This is often a great option. These illustrators might charge as little as \$50 per illustration (or less!)

**Someone online** – There are a large number of illustrators available online.

Green Hill does not endorse any illustrator but you can try **freelancer.com** You will need to set-up an account, start a project and provide your scanned storyboards – a detailed storyboard for each page/illustration to be done.

Another way of doing a childrens book is to use stock illustrations. You can search for stock illustrations here: **istock.com** This can be very effective. The childrens books below have all been built using stock illustrations.

