Amie Frain Short Story Planning, Research & Design Document

Bella's Adventures: A Story of Friendship and Courage.

Contents

Planning

- 1.1 Introduction and Brief
- 1.2 Production process weeks 1-8
- 1.3 Ideas & Mind Maps
- 1.4 Early idea generation
- 1.5 Ethics Applications

Research

- 4.1 Case Study Children's books
- 4.2 Case Study Interview with a 5 year old
- 4.3 Illustration styles
- 4.4 Illustration research
- 4.5 Character styles
- 4.6 Typography
- 4.7 Book size
- 4.8 Book material
- 4.9 Printing costs

Trello Project Management

2.1 Trello

Asset design process

- 3.1 The Pitch
- 3.1 Target audience

Innovative Technology

5.1 Story generation Chat GPT

Pre-production process

- 6.1 Moodboard
- 6.2 Storyboard draft #1
- 6.3 Storyboard draft #2
- 6.4 Character generation

Typography

7.1 Typeface choices

Proof of Concept

6.1 Proof of concept



Planning

- First ideas Mind maps
- Research into existing work
- Image gathering Mood board
- Storyboarding
- Pitching
- Roughs
- Proof of concept

Introduction 1.2

First Steps

I began my project by making mind maps of all my early ideas. I then moved on to research.

I began my research by looking at story books that me and my 5 year old favour. These are:
The Dinosaur who pood the bed
The Gruffalo
Time for Bed
Room on the broom.
The littlest dreamer books

A lot of our favourite stories have a rhyming pattern, which make it easier for me as a parent to read. I want to make my story rhyme to fit in with this convention.

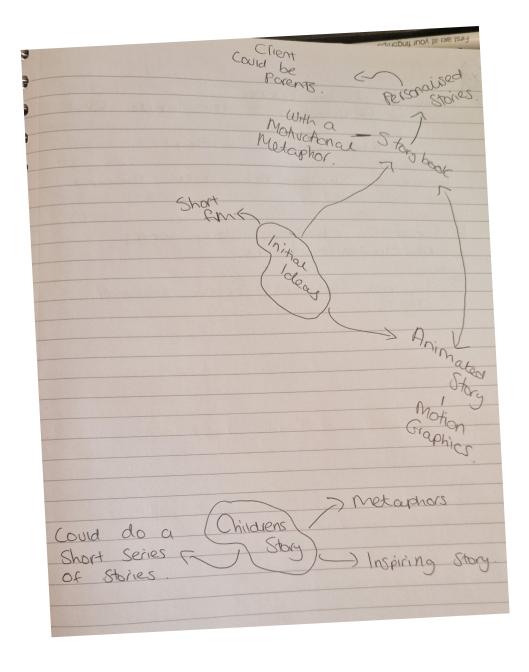
Brief Breakdown

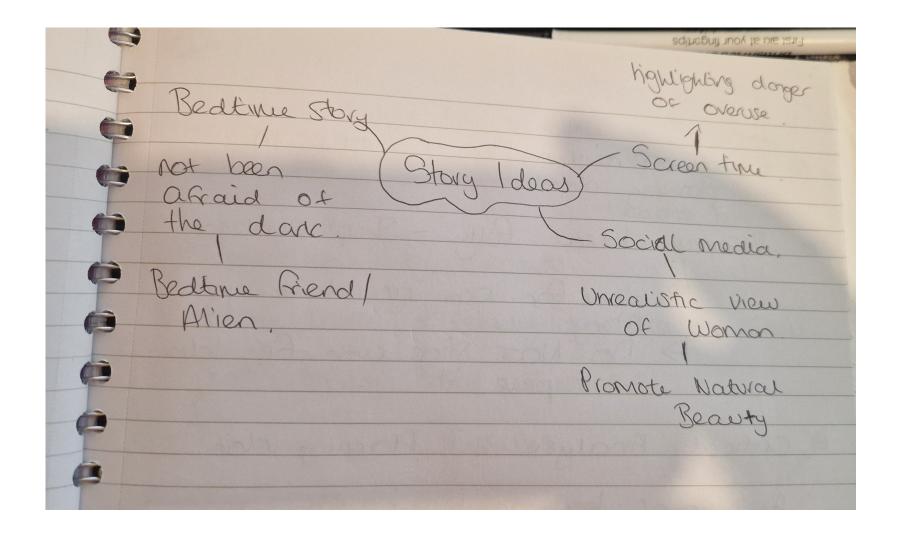
The brief is to tell a story in an innovative way in a format chosen by the student.

The client: Isabella Frain aged 5 years old.

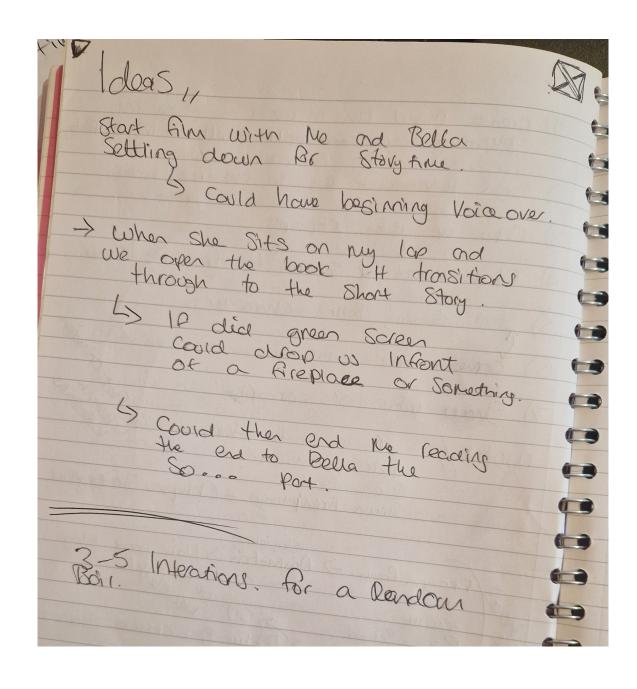
Story format: Short story book

Details: I hope for the finished product to be a physical printed book, and hope to create an animated version of the designs. At a later date my wish is to turn this book in to a series of books.





1) Create Project plan in excel - drop into
S create tremo - Invite Apolloy
2) Begin Research - Pot in dividurens books.
3) Came up with concepts.
3 4) Story Board. + Schedule for drawings Scores.
3 5) Start drawing Rolles Character.
6) come up with timeline.
Water/ The boy + the Herron. Are some of Mariable of concept.
Maiphoton. My are
Resected Simon Armiptage - Oblique Strategies.
- Stay telling - Dragon from -> Animotion -> Have good blog.
Viveo
BE - Benna. 758 Best Creative Source.
Co 1085 al.
You take. Printrest.



Story Ideas

Early on I knew I wanted to do some form of story for my daughter. I have the most researched/ watched hours in children's stories, animations and Anime, It seemed fitting to do a children's story. I wanted the story to rhyme as those are the easiest readers, for me, as a parent reading to their child. I also aspired to have the story portray a meaningful message or lesson.

I came up with 3 concepts of a meaningful messages which could help with problems my daughter faces at 5 years of age.

Concept 1: Dangers of screen-time.

Concept 2: Being afraid of the dark.

Concept 3: Mindfulness and self-care importance.

The next dilemma I faced was whether to do this as a short story animation or create a physical children's book, my hope is to be able to create both.

Ethics application's 1.5

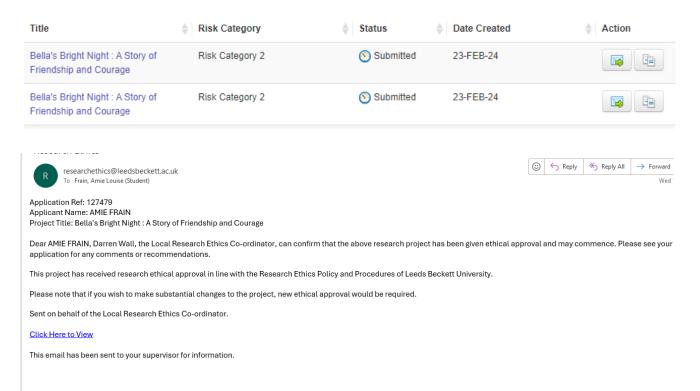
Ethics

Early on I knew I wanted to get feedback on a prototype of the story. It would be beneficial to the project and end product to get feedback from other mums and teachers at my daughters school.

As part of my research I also wanted to interview my 5 year old on her thoughts on her favourite books.

As such I needed to get ethical application, I submitted this early on in my project in week 4.

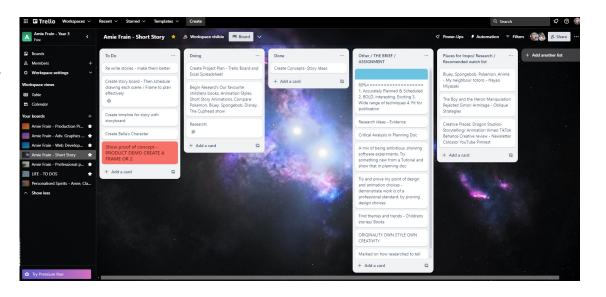
These were approved mid April.



Trello Project Management

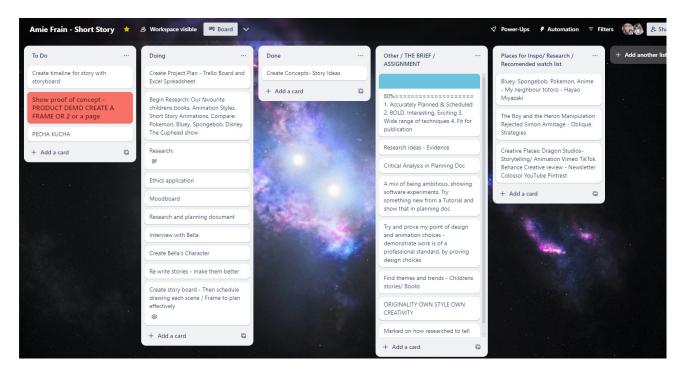
Planning

Throughout the production process I will be updating my Trello board to keep the project on Track.



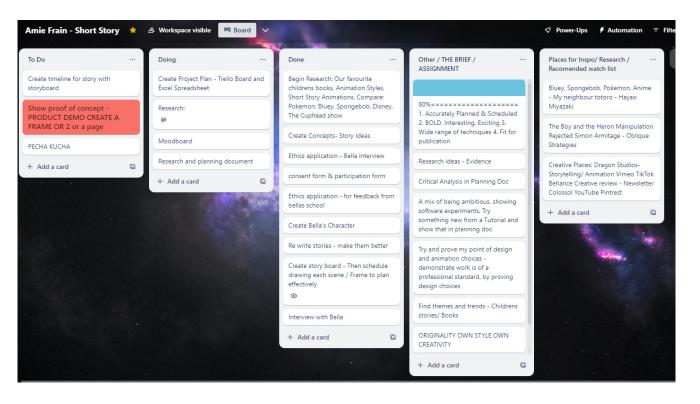
Week 4 update

I am updating the Trello board each week. This is helping me keep on track of the project. This week I have submitted an Ethics application and beginning to work on visual materials such as Moodbaord, Storyboard and Character generation. The ethics application is to get ethical approval to include an interview with my daughter on her favourite books.



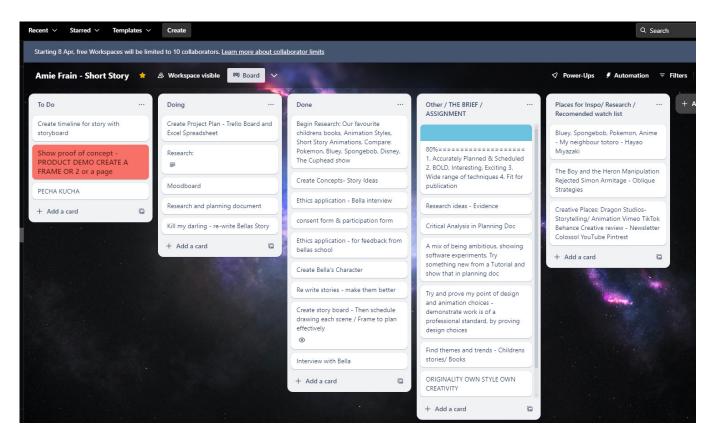
Week 5 update

This week I have created the first rough draft of my Bella character - as well as created the storyboard. I am now on with further research and creating the mood board of a visual style I want to achieve.



Week 6 update

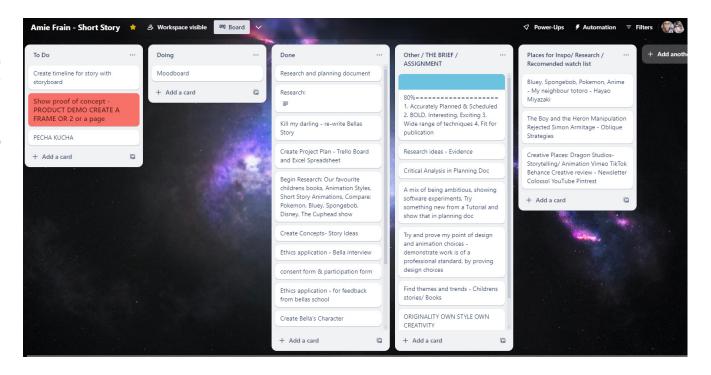
This week, after some feedback from my lecturer, Ashley. I decided to 'kill my darling' and re-write Bella's night-time story. Using ChatGPT as a basis for writing my story gave me an idea of how it should flow. But not all of the sentences made sense or were suitable for my target audience of Early years, Key Stage 1 children. As such I started again with my story. I think I have around 4 drafts of the story so far.



Week 7 & 8 update

I spent these weeks working on my story and starting to research illustration styles. At this point I am leaning towards a mystical illustration style. I have completed my story and ran it past Ashley who is much happier with the result.

I have also redone my Storyboard. The next steps are to create my proof of concept and finalise the presentation.





The Pitch

Pitch in 60 seconds

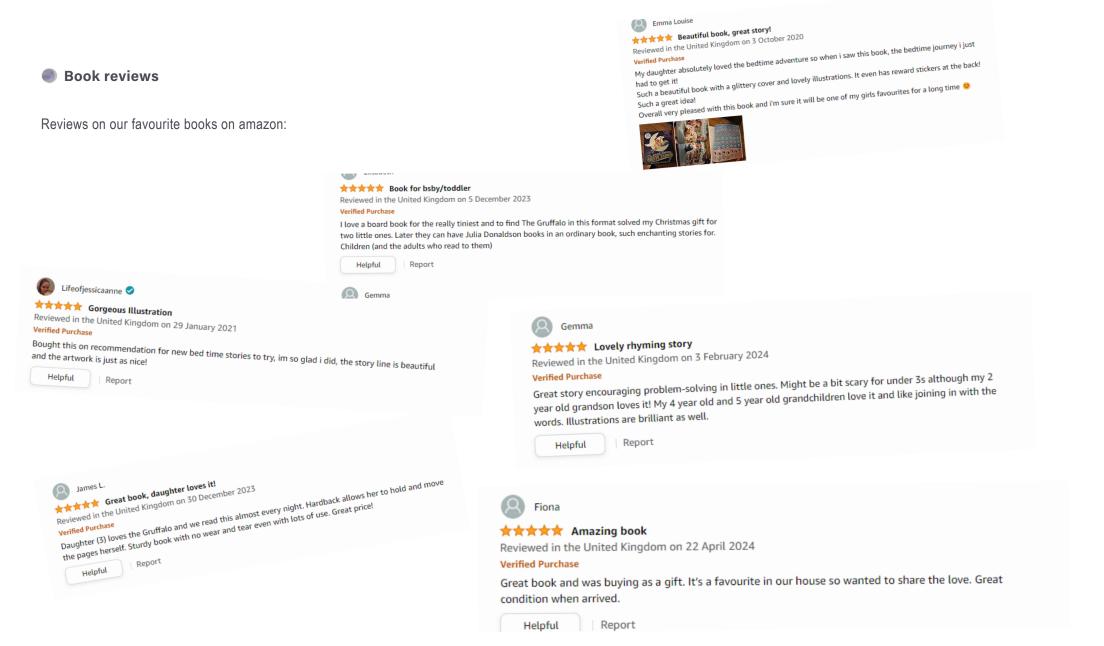
A story of a young girl named Bella. She is 5 and afraid of the dark. The night can be a scary place for a little girl. Along comes Zurka an Alien from a distant land who takes Bella on a night time adventure showing Bella that the nights is a time for adventures (dreams) not fears. By the end of the story Bella learns to not be afraid of the dark.

3 to 7 year old

I have chosen to do this age range as it is the age range I am most familiar with. This book is intended for my daughter and she is 5 year old. I believe the content will be suitable and interesting up to 7 or 8 year old's depending on the child's maturity.



Research



The littlest dreamer

This is one of our favourite books at bedtime. The illustrations are comforting and whimsical. The story itself flows well and rhymes throughout, making it easy to read as a parent reading aloud.

A critique I have with this book is, on some of the pages they have black text on a dark blue background, making it quite difficult to read in low light.

I like how the typeface changes on certain words. I see this with a lot of children's books which creates interesting visuals, builds emphasis - sets an emotional tone and provides a visual cue for comprehension.

I have seen this technique used from onomatopoeia words in books too, such as CRASH or BOOM.



This is a selection of some of our favourite books.

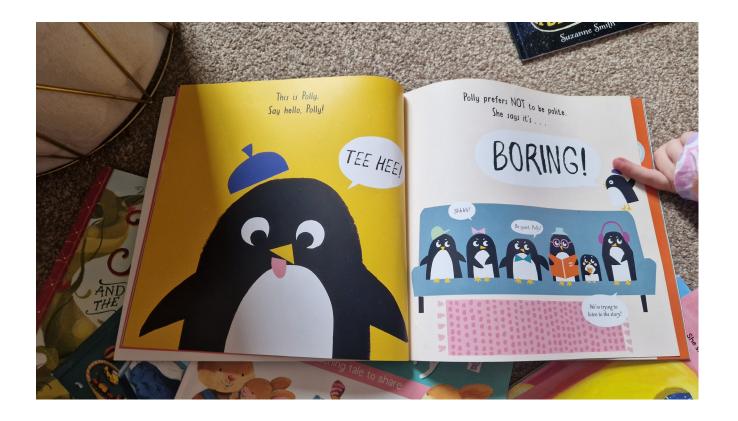


Interview with Bella

I started by asking my daughter a range of questions.



She pointed out parts she liked the most, like certain pictures, funny parts or big speech bubbles that say "BORING!".



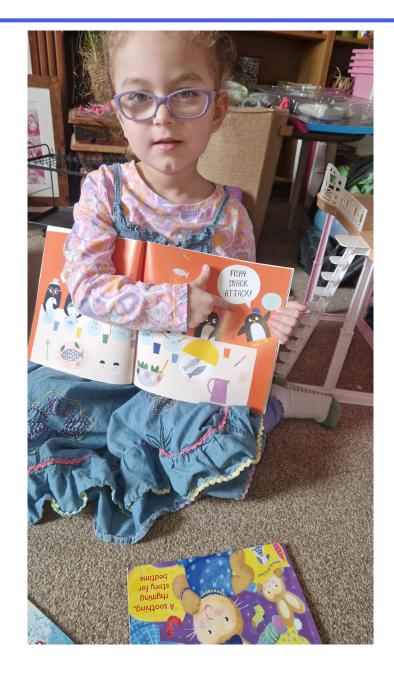
She finds the poop scene particularly funny. I like the illustration of this and how the shadow makes it come to life



The rhyming and flow from "Time For Bed". As a parent I find it really easy to read aloud.



Perfectly Polite Penguins has simple illustration, flat colours and uses lots of speech bubbles.



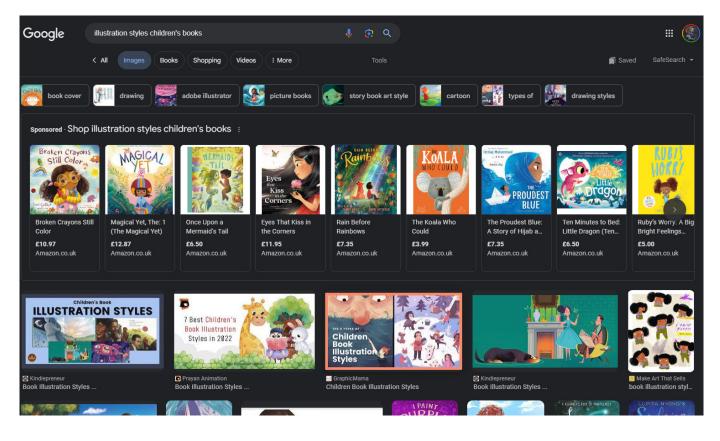
Personalised books

Bella has a couple of personalised books which offer a good moral or meaning, so iit made sense to include these in my research.



Illustration

I have a visual style in mind that I would like to achieve. I am drawn to the style which is solid colour. With the line work not neat, creating the feel of not colouring within the lines. I need to do a bit of research on illustration styles to give me the best chance on building a mood board for my desired aesthetic.



Cartoon

This is my personal preferred style of illustration in children's books. I find the vibrant visuals and textures very calming, fun and nostalgic. In the last picture, you can see another example of a different typeface used in the middle of the paragraph which builds emphasis. This illustration style is known for exaggerated features, moving away from strict realism.

This style is more playful than say a realistic style which is much more suited for Bella and her whimsical adventures which I want to portray in my story.



Illustration styles 4.3

Realistic

"In children's books, the term 'Realistic Illustration Style' means something specific." It is not a hyper realistic style but portrays things as they seem in real life. This is not for me, I prefer things to seem not as they are. I prefer it when objects are out of scale or not as they are in real life.

This illustration style works best in Children's books which tell a true story or that focus on teaching.



Wimmelbuch style

What I found about this illustration style is that it is great for curious kids, this style provides densely packed scenes, full with characters, objects and activities. This style reminds me of the 'Where's Wally' books from the 90's.

"Unlike traditional illustrations that follow a single narrative or focal point, Wimmelbuch illustrations invite readers to explore and discover a multitude of stories happening simultaneously within a single frame" - unknown.



Whimsical style

This illustration style, also known as fantasy style, is one of my favourites. I am hoping to achieve this sort of aesthetic with a mix of cartoon for the overall feel of my book.

This style of illustration offers delightful childlike wonder and is carefree, dreamy and filled with lively colourful details.

"This style is more about sparking imagination than showing reality", which is the exact feel and mood I want to create within my illustrations.

This style is best for bedtime stories and fairy tales.



Abstract

The abstract style tends to focus on shapes, colours and patterns rather than showing off detailed pictures of real things. These illustrations encourage kids to think differently, which ignites imagination and creativity.



Illustration styles 4

Other styles

I also looked at: Moody illustration style Line Drawing sketch style Vintage style illustrations And Manga style illustrations.

None of these appealed to me aesthetically for what I want to achieve in my book.

Manga which is the style used in Animé which is a very niche market and mainly used in comic books / graphic novels.

Moody / atmospheric illustration styles reminded me more of the old Disney movies like Snow White and Sleeping Beauty. This style is more about creating captivating atmospheres rather than the carefree fun feel i want to achieve

Line drawing and Vintage style are both very realistic which is not my art style and as such is not worth exploring too much. These styles remind me of the Beatrix Potter books from my childhood or black and white books where there was no colour..



Behance

After defining the illustration style I would like to achieve. I took to behance to look at how other illustrators create children's books. I wanted to get an idea of the design process as well as look for inspiration for my illustration style.



Behance

I spent a couple of hours finding inspiration and design / process techniques on Behance.



Behance

I found an illustrator called **Lana Levitann** on Behance. I am definitely inspired by her illustration style and will be taking inspiration from her work. I like the use of bold colours and the way she uses different shades of colour to pride depth and texture.

I then used the more like this feature on Behance to seek other similar artists.



Behance

Other illustration found from multiple designers.





Character styles 4.5

Characters

I wanted to look at different styles of how characters are represented in children's books.



Typefaces

Our favourite books tend to be the ones that switch between typefaces to create emphasis or create tension / build emotion when the typeface changes mid paragraph. As such, as part of my research I need to find some good font pairings, .

I also looked at kinds of fonts usually found in Children's books. The consensus seems to be simple typefaces like Arial, Comic Sans and Times New Roman.

Blockhead

Designed by John Hersey. From Emigre.







Add Family



Book sizes research 4.7

Size and Shape

I noticed children's books came in all shapes and sizes. Most were the width of an a4 sheet of paper, however a lot where much shorter in height than an a4 sheet of paper.

Some had a landscape orientation - others a portrait orientation. At this stage I am not sure what I want to do. It will depend on what is the easiest to have printed.

I am leaning towards a square book. 210 x 210mm.

Book material research 4.8

Materials paper choices

When looking at my daughters extensive collection of books, I noticed that a variety of materials where used. Some of the paper choices had a rough feel, others a more glossy feel to them.

Costs

I also looked at various sites for costs on printing for a quantity between 3 and 10 books. There are so many options it is a bit of a minefield and will come back to this once I have the finished artwork. It looks like it varies between £40 and £150 depending on options.



Innovative Technology

Story Ideas

I was worried I would spend too much time writing the story in a rhyming pattern. As such I decided to use Chat GPT to generate 3 story ideas in a Rhyming pattern.

Firstly I wrote in Chat GPT: "can you write a rhyming 10 page short children's story about a girl names Bella, who is afraid of the dark, but their needs to include a metaphor about the night not been so scary, she make a friend who is an alien who shows her the night time is not so scary."

I then built upon this for my other 2 ideas:

"can you write another similar format about half the length but have a different metaphor and meaning but this time about a girl named Bella and the message is about self care and mindfulness"

Then:

"same format again, 5 pages long this time the message is warning of screen time".

This provided me with three initial ideas to build upon.

A lot of the story did not make sense, so I had to re-write almost the entire story. But using CHAT GPT gave me a great starting point due to learning difficulties I have.

Rhyming convention

The story "Bella's Adventures: A story of Friendship and Courage" primarily uses a rhyming convention known as AABB, where the last word of the first and second lines rhyme with each other, and the last word of the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other. This pattern repeats throughout the story, providing a consistent and rhythmic flow to the narration.

Bella's adventures: A Story of Friendship and Courage

Once upon a time, in a village small and bright, (13)

Lived a girl named Bella, who was such a delight. (12) But when the sun would set and the moon filled the night, (12)

Bella's heart would race, and flutter with fright. (10)

Wrapped up cosy in blankets, Bella shivered in bed

Unable to sleep she was filled with dread. One night, as the stars twinkled and the moon shone bright, (12) Bella looked up and thought, "what's that?" At a bright beaming light. (14)

Outside her window emerged a spaceship, shiny and blue, (16) With a flash an alien appeared, who said "I'm here to help you". (16)

Her name was Zurka, small and green, (8) With huge, black eyes, the biggest Bella had ever seen. (13)

"Hello, little friend," Zurka said with a grin, (11)

"I've travelled far, and your planet I am in." (11)

Bella, wide-eyed, blinked in surprise, (8)

Bella's Bright Night: A Story of Friendship and Co

Once upon a time, in a village small and bright, (12) There lived a girl named Bella, who was such a delight, But when the sun would set and the moon filled the nij Bella's heart would flutter, filled full of fright. (10)

her cosy bed, with her teddies piled high, (11) a would tremble, under her blanket she would hid darkness so deep, the shadows would creep, ℓ it hard for Bella to fall asleep. (11)

tlear starry night, Bella saw something in f vt?" Bella said, towards a big bright light. n from space, flying his silver ship, (14)

Bella's nighttime adventures: A Story of Friendship and Courage Once upon a time, in a village small and bright, (13)

Lived a girl named Bella, who was such a delight. (12) But when the sun would set and the moon filled the night, (12)

Bella's heart would race, and flutter with fright. (10)

In her room where she laid, with her blankets and bears, (12) Bella would shiver, overcome by her fears. (10)

In the darkness so deep, the shadows would creep, (11) Which made it hard for her to go to sleep. (10)

One night, as the stars twinkled and the moon shone bright, (12) Bella looked up and thought, "what's that?" At a bright beaming light [14] Outside her window emerged a spaceship, shiny and blue, (16)

With a flash, an alien appeared, who said "I'm here to help you". (16)

Her name was Zurka, small - nd green, (8)

With huge black st Bella had ever seen. (13) "Hello

th a grin, (11) am in." (11)

Title: Bella and the Friendly Nightlight

Once upon a time, in a small town so merry. Lived a sweet little girl, her name was Bella, not very scary. But when the sun would set and the moon took flight.

Bella's heart would race, for she was afraid of the night.

In her room so cozy, with blankets and bears, Bella would shiver, surrounded by her tears. The darkness outside, the shadows so deep,

Made it hard for Bella to fall asleep.

One night, as stars twinkled and the moon shone bright, A small spaceship landed with a soft, gentle light. Out stepped an alien, not green or blue,



Pre-Production

Mood-board 6.1





















		Title: Bella's Bright N	Night: A Story of Friendship and	d Courage	
Page: 0	Page: 1	Page: 2	Page: 3	Page: 4	Page: 5
Inner & Outer Pages:	Verse:	Verse:	Verse:	Verse:	Verse:
, and the second	Once upon a time, in a village bright and merry, Lived a girl named Bella, not one bit scary. But when the sun would set and the moon took flight, Bella's heart would flutter, filled with fright.	In her snug room, with blankets piled high, Bella would tremble, under the starry night sky. The shadows so deep, the darkness would creep, Making it hard for Bella, to fall asleep.	delight, A small ship landed, casting a soft light. Out stepped an alien, not green or blue, But a gentle creature named Zurka, just passing through.	own glow, Her warmth made Bella's fear slowly go. "Hello, dear one," Zurka said with a grin, "I've journeyed far, to share the night's kin."	Wide-eyed Bella blinked, feeling so small, "The night looms large, in its mysterious sprawl." Zurka 's laughter, soft as a breeze, "Let me show you, with utter ease."
1	Illustration:	Illustration:	Illustration:	Illustration:	Illustration:
	Bella in a house looking out of a window in a cute looking little village. An an hill.	Bella in her bed, covers over her, looking scared. A big window in the room with a full moon and stars visible through the window. Big pile of blankets on the bed.	A spaceship in Bella's bed/Garden. The spaceship casts a soft glow on the ground. The door is open and there is a grey alien stood on the ramp that goes in to the spaceship.	Close up of Bella and Zurka stood together in either Bellas room/Garden. Scales of objects not realistic. Massive furniture/Leaves/Grass small characters.	Next to Zurka's ship - page mainly full of the nights sky to create the feeling of the night looming over them.
· /	Animation:	Animation:	Animation:	Animation:	Animation:
	Over the houses, day changes to night. The sun sets and the moon rises.	Stars twinkle, Bella pulls the blanket up over her face.	Ithrough to the illustration on the nage	Zurka's eyes twinkling and Bellas eyes blinking. Objects in the room moving. Animate mouth moving to speech?	Bella blinking, stars twinkling, a shooting star goes across the sky.
1	Sound:	Sound:	Sound:	Sound:	Sound:
	Sound of crickets when the night creeps in.	Bella moans as the night sets in.	spaceship whoosh noises as the spaceship comes in and lands.	Zurkas speech?	Alien laughter sound, crickets.

Title: Bella's Bright Night: A Story of Friendship and Courage				
Page: 6	Page: 7	Page: 8	Page: 9	Page: 10
Verse:	Verse:	Verse:	Verse:	Verse:
With a wave of her hand, the room transformed, A magical realm where fears were scorned. Stars twinkled like lanterns, lighting the sky, As Bella and Zurka began to fly.	I hrough galaxies and nebulas, a moon so bright, Bella's fear took flight, vanishing from sight. Zurka spoke gently, "Dear friend, see, The night is a marvel, for you and me."	As Zurka revealed the night's gentle reign. The metaphor unfolded, clear as day, The night was a friend, not a foe in the	From that moment forth, Bella and Zurka soared, Exploring the heavens, their spirits adored. The darkness, a canvas, broad and wide, Filled with wonders on which they'd dide	So, if ever fear of the night takes flight Remember Bella and Zurka whimsica sight. For in the dark, there's a gentle glow s bright, And the night is a marvel, not a daunt blight.
Illustration:	Illustration:	Illustration:	Illustration:	Illustration:
Bella and Zurka swooshing through the nights sky	Bella in space surrounded by galaxies, nebulas and planets.	Bella and Zurka, in the spaceship going over the earth. Stars and nebulas visbile in the background	Looking out of spaceship window at the town.	Bella and Zurka back on bellas bed. Holding hands waving. Big window w a big smiling moon in the background
Animation:	Animation:	Animation:	Animation:	Animation:
Zurka waving her hand and transition to the page. Stars moving around the Characters.	Going through like a tunnel like shown when time travelling.	The earth can twinkle, the spaceship jittering, random boil.	the snaceshin littering random holl	Waving hands. Twinkling stars and the moon blinking/ eyes moving.
Sound:	Sound:	Sound:	Sound:	Sound:
Swooshing sounds	Swooshing tunnel sounds.	twinkling sounds	Spaceship sound	Whimsicle sound - cartoon blinking sound.

		Title: Bella s Adventi	res: A Story of Friendship and	Courage.	
Page: 0	Page: 1	Page: 2	Page: 3	Page: 4	Page: 5
Inner & Outer Pages:	Verse:	Verse:	Verse:	Verse:	Verse:
1st inner page and last outer page - Pictures of bellas Drawings put on an	Once upon a time, in a village small and bright, (13) Lived a girl named Bella, who was such a delight. (12) But when the sun would set and the moon filled the night, (12) Bella's heart would race, and flutter with fright. (10)	Wrapped up cosy in blankets, Bella shivered in bed, Unable to sleep she was filled with dread. One night, as the stars twinkled and the moon shone bright, (12) Bella looked up and thought, "what's that?" At a bright beaming light. (14)	Outside her window emerged a spaceship, shiny and blue, (16) (does this flow) With a flash an alien appeared, who said "I'm here to help you". (16) Her name was Zurka, small and green, (8) With huge, black eyes, the biggest Bella had ever seen. (13)	"Hello, little friend," Zurka said with a grin, (11) "I've travelled far, and your planet I am in." (11) Bella, wide-eyed, blinked in surprise, (8) She felt all warm and fuzzy inside.	"Hello, I'm Bella," she whispered, her voice so small, (12) "The night is scary; the darkness seems so big and tall." (11) "Fear not Dear Bella," Zurka said with ease, (12) "Take my hand and lets fly like the breeze." (11)
illustrated page.	Illustration:	Illustration: (Proof of concept page).	Illustration:	Illustration:	Illustration:
Dedication to Bella. Title page.	Bellas Village, houses, nighttime moons stars	Bella in her bed, covered by a blanket. Teddies on the bed/on a shelf. A big window behind her with a big shining moon. With a big light shining in the distance.		Just bella and Zurka. Dark background.	Bella in her room, shadows looking as if they are looming over her. Make them look almost scary / human / demonic.
	Animation:	Animation:	Animation:	Animation:	Animation:
	The animation could be day turning to night.	The beeming light overtaking the image until it is bright white.	The spaceship coming in to frame.	Bella blinking.	Random boil on the shadows and make them grow perhaps? Mask off the shadows to make them grow?
	Sound:	Sound:	Sound:	Sound:	Sound:
	Sound of crickets when the night creeps in.	Beeming/electric sound.	Swooshing sound as spaceship comes in.	Cartoon blinking sound.	TBC

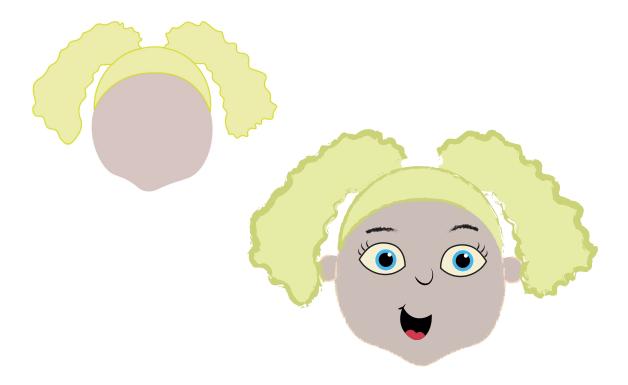
Page: 6	Page: 7	Page: 8	Page: 9	Page: 10
Verse:	Verse:	Verse:	Verse:	Verse:
Before she could say "OK" they were zooming through Space, (13) Through galaxies and nebulas, to a most magical place. (15) In this whimsical world where wonderful colours filled the land, With the most humongous trees which stood tall and grand.	Its creatures danced under the nights rainbow glow, (13) Its hills were as beautiful as the rivers that flow. (11) The night is something to embrace, With its mysteries and wonders in every space.	Bella's heart felt lighter, her worries grew small, As Zurka showed her the beauty of night's gentle call. Their adventure had washed all her fears away, The night wasn't scary; it was just like the day.	Forever thereafter, Bella and Zurka explored, The wonders of the cosmos, the stars they adored. () The universe out there was a canvas so wide, Bella no longer had any reason to hide.	Just remember the story of Bell Where nighttime isn't as scary
Illustration:	Illustration:	Illustration:	Illustration:	Illustration:
Bella and Zurka holding hands, zooming through space Past the moon or galaxies.	New land, big tall trees in the distance, the sky full of colours, shiny brigt blue river flowing down from a distant hill. Happy creatures dancing in a circle, magical looking toadstools.		Space, galaxies, stars, nebulas.	Bella back in her bed. Asleep sr thought bubble out of Bellas he Zurka in her ship.
Animation:	Animation:	Animation:	Animation:	Animation:
Zooming through space	Random boil on parts of the scene.	TBC	TBC	The cloud bubble could grow th
Sound:	Sound:	Sound:	Sound:	Sound:
Zooming sound	Flowingwater sound	твс	твс	Bella snoring?

Main Characters

The main characters for the story are Bella and Zurka. Bella is a 5 year old girl who is afraid of the dark. Zurka is a friendly alien who, together they embark on magical journeys in the night time visiting nebulas and galaxies on wonderful night time journeys until Bella is no longer afraid of the dark.

I started by creating simple shapes on illustrator and used a rough brush.

Critical analysis: I spent the best part of a day tinkering with this design. Realising I was wasting too much time without achieving a good enough product. I decided I needed to do some skill seeking. As I have never really illustrated characters before. I decided to jump on YouTube and follow a tutorial.

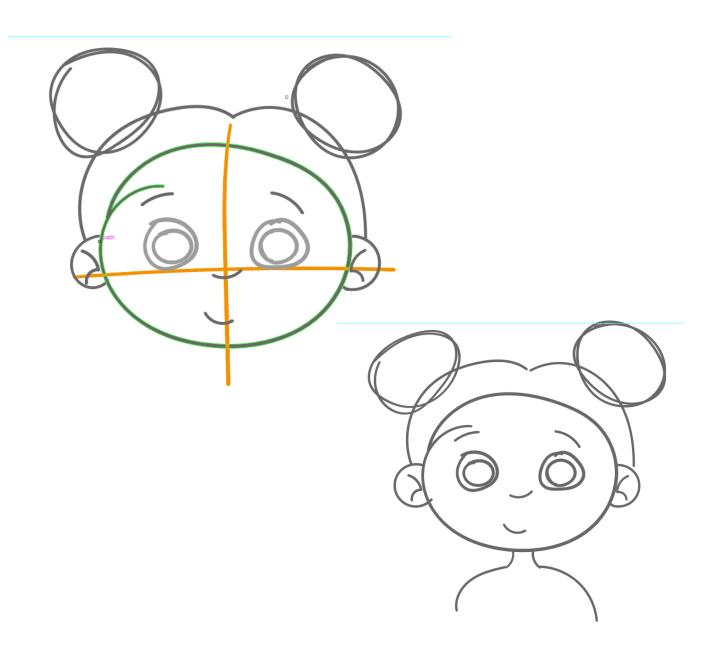


YouTube tutorial

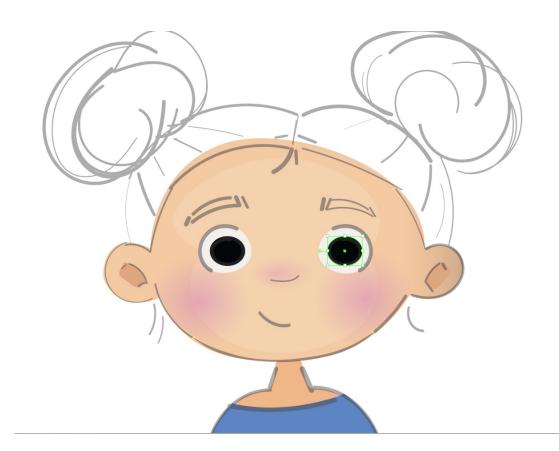
I began by following this tutorial: On character illustration.
I adapted the character to suit how I wanted Bella to look.
Following this tutorial gave me a good foundation to build upon.

I started by creating a sketch layer and drew out a rough version of my character. I then used the pathfinder tool to unite all the shapes.

I then lowered the opacity and created a second sketch layer to tidy up over the design. I was also learning how to use my graphics tab at this point and it was quite tricky getting used to the brush strokes on the blob brush.













Final character

After following the YouTube tutorial I made my character more like Bella with blonde hair and blue eyes. I wanted to add the blue and pink to the hair to make the design more fun. This is a much better and visually interesting design.

I now need to create this character in different poses.





Typography

Font face

I wanted to keep the typeface fun yet easily ready by adults and children. As such I chose the primary typeface as Comic Sans MS, and then words I wish to stand out such as onomatopoeia words I will choose a typeface that matches the word as shown in the proof of concept.





Proof of Concept

