Final Presentation and Evaluation
Amie Frain

Bella's Adventures:

A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COURAGE

BY AMIE FRAIN

Development

My story was first developed on ChatGPT to give me a base. I started by writing my story idea, the characters I wanted to include, how I wanted the story to develop and that I wanted it to rhyme.

I then built upon this initial version until I had a version I was happy with.

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 li

Outside her window emerged a spaceship, shiny and blue, (1
With a flash an alien appeared, who said "I'm here to help
Her name was Zurka, small and green, (8)
With huge, black eyes, the biggest Bella had ever seen

"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)

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 fears.
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,

A Story of Friendship and Courage

, in a village small and bright, (12)
named Bella, who was such a delight, (13)
sun would set and the moon filled the night, (12)
t would flutter, filled full of fright. (10)

cosy bed, with her teddies piled high, (11)
would tremble, under her blanket she would hide. (13)
the darkness so deep, the shadows would creep, (11)
Making it hard for Bella to fall asleep. (11)

Then one clear starry night, Bella saw something in flight, (12)
"What is that?" Bella said, towards a big bright light. (12)
It was an Alien from space, flying his silver ship. (14)

Bold words

A lot of the books in my research and the ones I read to my daughter on an evening have bold words that stand out from the paragraph.

I have done this in my book for onomatopoeia words or words that can be emphasised when reading aloud to children.

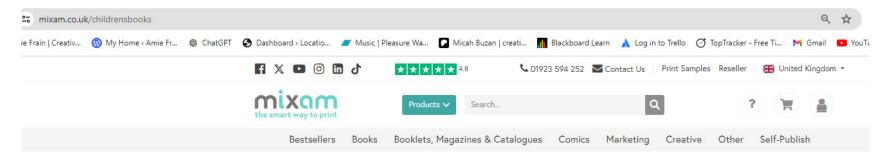Bella's heart felt lighter, her worries grew small,
As Zurka showed her the beauty of night's gentle call.
Their ADVENTURE had washed all her fears away,
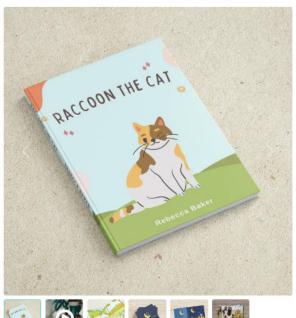The night wasn't scary; it was just like the day.

Book print

Benefits of print:
• See the design come to life
• Great addition to portfolio
• Academic credibility
• Gained experience and skills in getting a book printed
• Editing, designing and proofreading skillsw
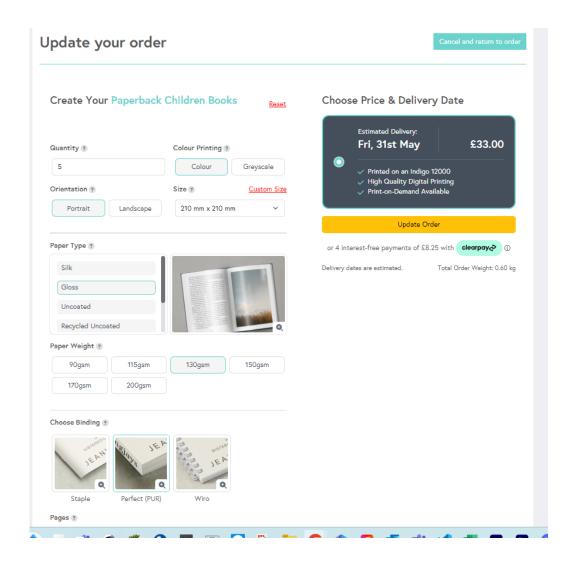
Book print

My settings were:
- Artwork was 210mm x 210mm
- Silk gloss paper type (Based on research)
- 130gsm paper thickness
- "Perfect" Binding type as per usual children's books
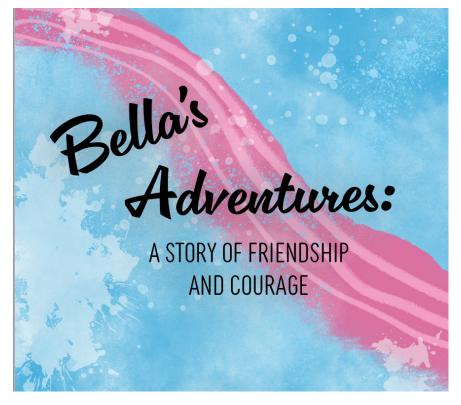- Gloss lamination cover
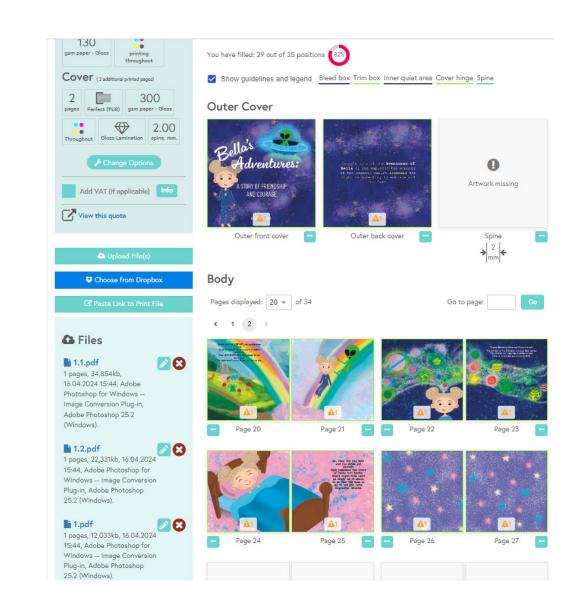
Book print

Final checks:
- Re-arrange pages
- Create spine
- Final book preview
- Check bleed and quiet area

Planning & Research

Book progression

My project is unique due to the fact I plan to explore turning them in to personalised books for other children. I could change Bella's name to other children's names. 2 Syllable names would work the best but other names would also work. This is something I plan to explore after university to pursue as a secondary income. - I could create a website where drag and drop code could be used, for parents to build their own character and insert their child's name and the book gets printed unique to their child.

I also plan on doing a series of this book as I came up with 3 original concepts for this story which I would like to go on and complete after uni. I also have ideas for other stories - these are:
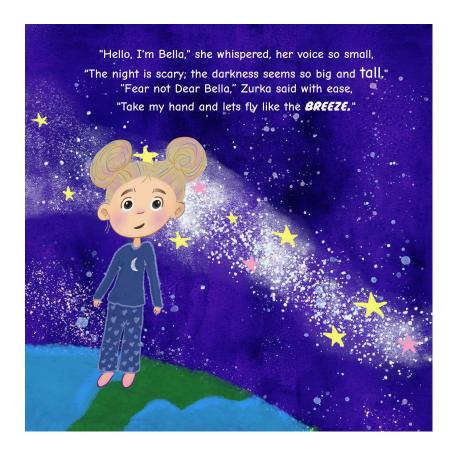• Dangers of screen time
• The importance of mindfulness
• Healthy eating.
• Stranger Danger
• Cleaning your room

I am also looking to have this book published and possibly the whole series when it is completed.

Client feedback

Bella's thoughts:
•Loved the colouring in her hair
• Loved all the stars and details
• Enjoyed the rhyming
• Loved herself as a cartoon/drawing

Learning process

I have always tended to lean towards Illustrator for any design work. However to achieve the whimsical style I desired I quickly realised I needed to move to Photoshop. Because I have not used PS much for design it was a learning curve taking a deeper dive in to the software. Whilst learning how to use a graphics tab. I am glad I stepped out of my comfort zone and did this as not only have I become quite proficient in using my graphics tab I have learning loads in Photoshop.

I have learned loads about the brush tool, as well as learning how the blend, smudge and blur tools work. I have used the smudge tool to smudge certain colours together to achieve a desired effect. I also blurred out some backgrounds to add to the effect of the design like in the whimsical world.

I also learned more about adjustment layers and layer masks and how to keep layers organised so the document did not get too confusing.

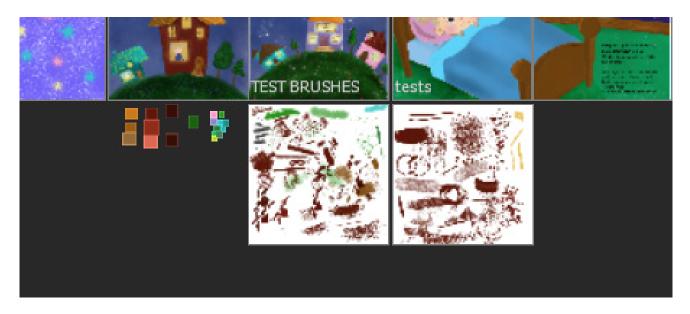Keyboard short cuts for faster working is something I have really honed in on during this process also.

Design

Design process

My first design choice was to choose to do a double page spread for my illustrations. Because my target audience is my client Bella's age group is key stage1 children, who are 5-7 year old's. This means these children are only just beginning to read, the main interest of this age group are the pictures. I didn't want to try and squish the picture on to a single page and as such, as per other books in my research such as the ones from the little tiger series, I chose to go with a double page spread per one verse.

Design process

Throughout the process I was using 'test pages' to test brushes to achieve the desired effect or texture that I had in mind.

When drawing assets like the town and houses. I created colour pallets underneath or to the side of the page which helped me switch between the colours using the 'i' key which is the eyedropper tool and 'B' key for the brush tool.
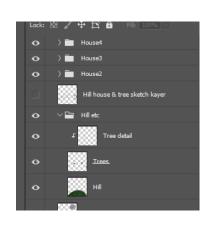
Design process

I began each page by firstly creating the background of the page. I then began sketching out the elements of the page. Once I had the bits in place like the houses and the trees, I then did another 'sketch' layer to neaten up the lines. On top of that layer I added the colourings. Then using adjustment layers I added texture using various brushes like the paper texture brush. Then using another adjustment layer I would add shading and highlights.

Admittedly I spent more time than I would of expected drawing the houses and adding texture. Because I am not familiar with the brush tool in Photoshop, it took a while looking through the various brush pallets and testing them to get the desired effect.
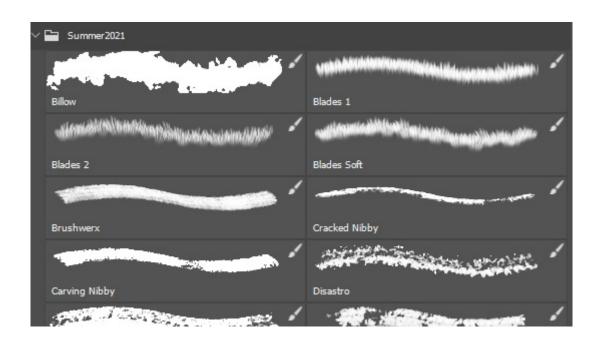
Design process

Using brushes from the summer brush folder I could add a grass effect to the grassy parts of the illustration.
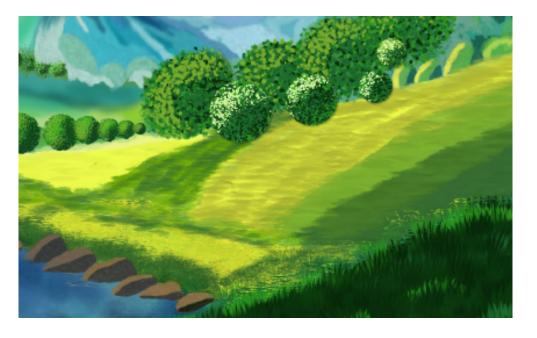
I also used the spatter brush to make the grass look as though it had little wildflowers growing over it.

Design process

This particular brush effect allowed me to create an effect like grass was blowing in the wind. I also used a variation of splatter and special effect brushes to create these dotted trees. I wanted the trees to be unrealistic to create this feeling of a mystical land.

Design process

I have never been strong at photo-realistic art. Getting things in the right places has always muddled my brain. But I had a picture in mind of what I wanted to create for the mystical land. As such to overcome this difficulty and achieve the illustration I desire I decided to use my skills of AI generation to use as a reference image. We learned in year2 how to use references images to create things in the adobe software, As such I typed a detailed description in an AI generator and generated images until I got two I was happy with.
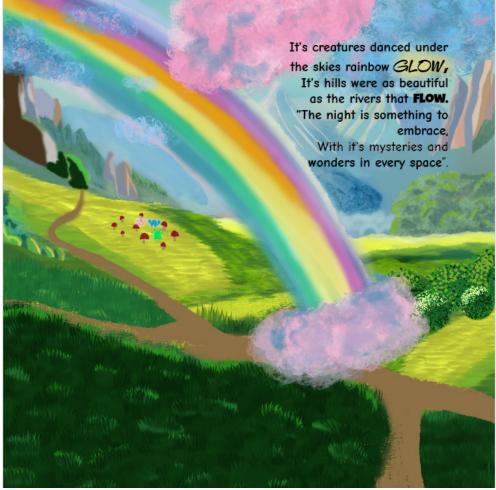
The description was as follows:

"A mystical land with a shining, glowing rainbow which runs down the image, creating a rainbow glow in the sky. Rivers running down from some mountains and big tall trees to the left of the image. Clouds in the sky and grassy lands".

This search returned some images and I chose the following ones:

It's creatures danced under
the skies rainbow GLOW,
It's hills were as beautiful
as the rivers that FLOW.
"The night is something to
embrace,
With it's mysteries and
wonders in every space".

Design process

When I was setting up the settings to print the book. I had to go back through each design to ensure they fit within a template for the pages to account for page movement and bleed. These are referred to as the 'Bleed Area' and 'Quiet area.

: of 35 positions   82%

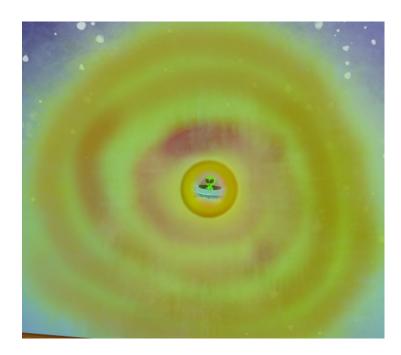and legend   Bleed box   Trim box   Inner quiet area   Cover hinge

Front Outer Cover
210mm X 210mm
(Flat Size: 210mm X 210mm)

- **Bleed Area:** Bleed all edges: 3mm - We aim to trim this area off, but some movement can occur. Extend your design into this area to avoid white gaps that could occur due to paper movement.
- **Quiet Area:** Quiet area top: 5mm, right: 5mm, bottom: 5mm, left: 12mm - Keep any text or important elements away from this area. This area has a safe distance to allow for any paper movement as the trimming and binding can be done further in than expected.
- **Trim Area** - Also referred as the outer edge. We aim to trim this area off to the final size, but some movement can occur.
- **Fold Line** - Also referred as the inner edge. This is where the document will be folded or bound.

mixam
the smart way to print

Design process
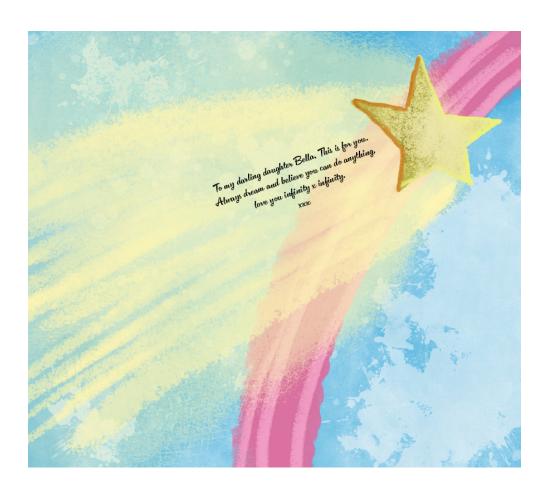

I decided to change the 'Bright beaming light' into a portal that Zurka was coming through. I also added further shading and texture to the bed, using the charcoal pencils in the brush palette. I then used the smudge tool on the bedpost to get this rough effect.

Wrapped up cosy in blankets,
Bella **SHIVERED** in bed,
Unable to sleep she was filled
full of dread.

One night, as the stars twinkled
and the moon shone bright,
Bella looked up a
"what's that?"
At a bright BE

Design process

This page was made using a variation of the paper texture brush, charcoal and pencil brushes as well as various spatter and splatter effect brushes. The simplicity and texture of the design is inspired by some of Bella's favourite books. I looked through a number of books at their inner pages to see what sort of illustrations are used. They tend to be pretty much anything. Some have patters, some have lots of illustrations like of leaves for the Bug Bear story for example or some have simple illustrations like this one and some simply just have patterns like stripes. The inner pages I have created are in keeping with what is done in industry.

A lot of the books I looked at had acknowledgements in. Because this book was made for my daughter I too wanted to add in an acknowledgement.
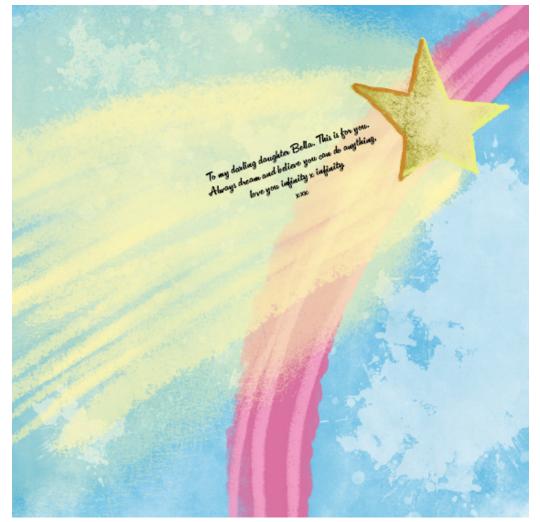
Design process

Another thing I noted that many children's books have is a "This book belongs to:" page. As such to make my book authentic I also designed one of these pages.
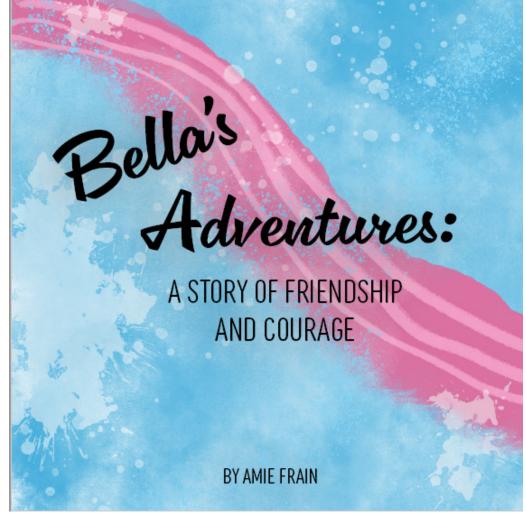
I used a paper texture brush for the background and the white paper. I wanted the paper to look tattered and battered as if its a torn off part of a treasure map made of parchment paper.

To my darling daughter Bella. This is for you.
Always dream and believe you can do anything.
love you infinity x infinity
xxx

Bella's Adventures:

A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COURAGE

BY AMIE FRAIN

Once upon a time, in a village small and bright.
Lived a girl named Bella, who was such a delight.
But when the sun would set and the moon filled the night.
Bellas heart would race and flutter with FRIGHT.

Wrapped up cosy in blankets,
Bella **SHIVERED** in bed,
Unable to sleep she was filled
full of dread.

One night, as the stars twinkled
and the moon shone bright,
Bella looked up and thought,
"what's that?"
At a bright **BEAMING** light.

Outside her window emerged
a *SPACESHIP*, shiny
and blue.
With a **FLASH** an alien
appeared, who said "I'm here
to help you".
Her name was Zurka small
and green,
With **HUGE** black eyes, the
biggest Bella had ever seen.

"Hello little friend". Zurka said with a grin. "I have travelled far and you're planet I am in".
Bella wide eyed, blinked in **Surprise.** She felt all warm and *FUZZY* inside.

"Hello, I'm Bella," she whispered, her voice so small,

"The night is scary; the darkness seems so big and tall."
"Fear not Dear Bella," Zurka said with ease,
"Take my hand and lets fly like the *BREEZE.*"

Before she could say "OK", they were **ZOOMING** through space,
Through galaxies and nebulas, to a most magical place.
In this whimsicle world where wonderful colours filled the land,
With the most **HUMONGOUS** trees which stood tall and grand.

It's creatures danced under
the skies rainbow *GLOW*,
It's hills were as beautiful
as the rivers that **FLOW.**
"The night is something to
embrace,
With it's 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**.

So, when the sun sets
and the skies get
darker,
Just remember the story
of Bella and Zurka.
Where night-time isn't
as scary as it seems.
It is just the time to
go to bed and have
wonderful dreams.

Snuggle up with the **Aventures of Bella** as she explores the wonders of the cosmos, whilst **learning** the night is something to embrace and not fear.
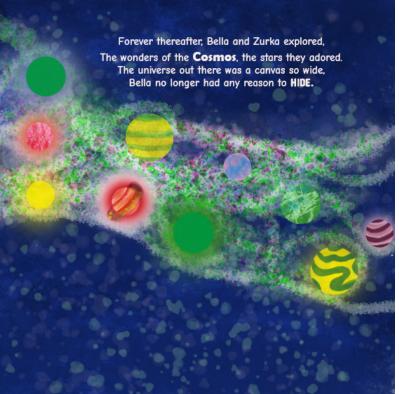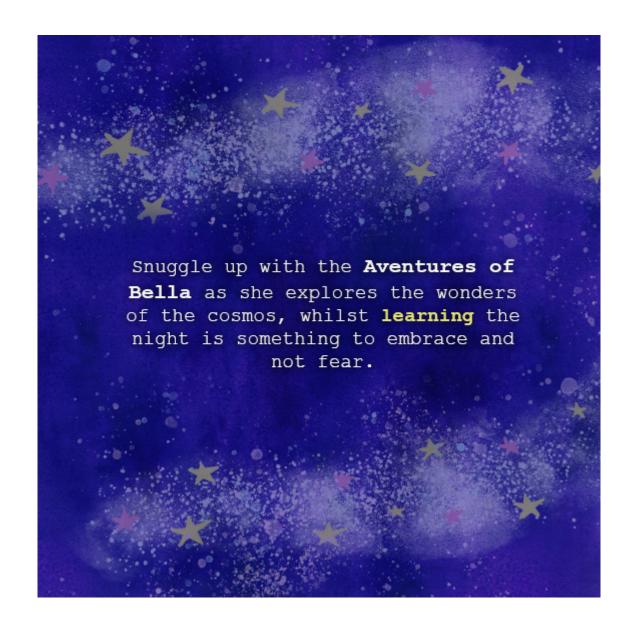
Evaluation

Evaluation

When I do this process again. Rather than completing page by page. I think I would sketch out all the pages first. Get my story set out and how I want each place to look. Then go through and add all the colour and texture. I found that I spent quite long on some elements as I got caught up in adding so much texture. Which meant I ran out of time when it came to the inner pages and they had to be rushed slightly. I wanted to scan in Bella's drawings and have them as pinned up pictures on the inner leaf but I did not get time in the end to do this.

I also need to find a way of marking brushes. Or when I have used a bWWWrush for a specific thing, like clouds for example, I need to make sure I make a note of the brush or add them in to a folder as I was constantly losing the right brush that I wanted and wasted a lot of time testing brushes to find the effect I wanted to achieve.

I am very glad I decided to move from Illustrator to Photoshop as this allowed me to use the brush palette to much better achieve my whimsical illustration style. I also downloaded additional brush sets from the Adobe Website which gave me much more choice for the effect I want to achieve.