

## MARY JANE BEGIN PRESENTS: Make a Picture, Tell a Story

### My presentation consists of:

- An introduction that explains how I got started (the early illustrations at age six), where I went to school (RISD) and was taught and inspired, and what it's like to be a teacher, artist, and mother.
- An exploration of the process of making a picture book from rough "scribble" drawings, to research, final drafts and then paintings. This includes special art "secrets" and how to's through a slide presentation and lecture.
- A question and answer session that allows for curious and enquiring minds wanting to know what it's like to work in fuzzy slippers, paint fur, make a mouse smile.
- The presentation ends with a literacy game. A volunteer provides a "scribble" on a large pad or overhead projector and we look at the scribble from all angles: up, down and sideways. The audience offers ideas on what the scribble looks like, and then I offer what I see. I start to draw, allowing the audience to see an image emerge, than ask for details that will tell a story. If it's a character or creature, where does it live? What does it eat? Is it happy or sad? Why? What is it doing? What is its name? The audience provides the answer and I draw. The game provides a link between the development of a narrative image and a story.
- I provide sketches, thumbnail dummies, original art and samples of other types of illustration to augment the presentation.
- I've done many lectures for schools in the area and throughout the U.S. for grades K - Undergraduate Studies, as well presentations for numerous conferences and workshops, including the Rhode Island Festival of Children's Books and Authors, the National Family Literacy Conference, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Conference, the NEA Teacher's Conference the National Education Association and Reach Out and Read Rhode Island.

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