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WRITING AND ILLUSTRATING YOUR OWN FABLE

Leslie Ann Hayashi and Kathleen Wong Bishop

Author and Illustrator of:

FABLES FROM THE GARDEN

FABLES FROM THE SEA

FABLES FROM THE DEEP

FABLES BENEATH THE RAINBOW

Website: fablesfromthefriends.com

TIPS ON WRITING

I. Characteristics of a Fable

- A. There's a lesson or moral to be learned.
- B. It involves animals, plants or forces of nature.
- C. The fable is short and direct.
- D. It has mainly action.
- E. It's universal; cross-cultural and ultimately, reinforces what makes us human.

II. How to Write Fables

- A. Start with the lesson you want to teach. (Theme)
 - 1. What's your advice?
 - 2. Examples: It's better to cooperate than fight; Believe in yourself; Be honest; Be happy with what you have; Follow your heart.
- B. Choose the characters
 - 1. Who will teach the lesson?
 - 2. Who should learn the lesson?
- C. How will the lesson be learned? (Plot)
 - 1. How will your story unfold?
 - 2. What's the event that will teach the lesson?
- D. Think about dialogue and different voices.
- E. Describe the setting.
- F. Refine the moral.
- G. Put it all together.
 - 1. First draft, second draft, third, final.
 - 2. Edit! Edit! Edit!



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TIPS ON ILLUSTRATING

- I. Visualize the Story
 - A. Who are the main characters?
 - B. What are they doing?
 - C. What is the focus of the story?

- II. Design the Illustration
 - A. How much space do you have for your illustrations?
Do you want the words on the same page as your picture?
 - B. Capture the essence of the story visually by focusing on the main characters and their interaction. You don't have to draw everything.
 - C. What do you feel when you read the story? Convey that emotion.
 - D. Research your characters to draw them. Use real plants, animals or photographs to help you or have fun with your imagination and create fantasy characters. The most important object should be larger, have more detail, or be highlighted in some way.

- III. Color!
 - A. If you want to add color to your drawing, choose a medium (Paints, pastels, crayons, markers, pencils, etc.).
 - B. Complementary colors: red/green, blue/orange, yellow/purple used side by side provide interest and contrast. Put the most exciting or interesting colors where you want people to look.
 - C. Textures (ie. brush or crayon strokes) can also express movement or feeling.
 - D. Exaggerate or change the colors of your plants or animal characters for drama. You don't have to use "real life" colors.