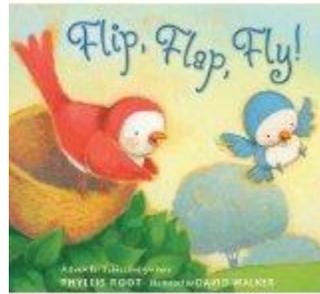


Interview With Illustrator David Walker (2/7/2010)



Q. When did you begin your career as a children's picture book illustrator?

DW. I “accidentally” became a children’s book artist about 8 years ago I guess. While I’d always hoped to do children’s books at some point in my life, I was busily working away on greeting cards, calendars, gift bags, etc. when I got a call from an Editor at Farrar, Straus & Giroux asking if I would like to do a kid’s book with her. I guess there are certain events in your life that can take you down an unexpected path, and that phone call has definitely turned out to be one of those. I still do a lot of other kinds of work, but books are becoming more and more the focus of my studio time... who knew!?



Q. Why do you like to create books for children?

DW. Like most artists, I have drawn and painted all my life. I never knew exactly what form my art would take in my adult life, but I think I was in college when I realized I just didn’t have enough angst to go down the tortured artist path, and I found myself leaning more and more toward whimsical illustration styles. Kid’s books turned out to be great fit for me. There are so many challenges when designing a children’s book, from establishing the overall look and tone, developing a character, to visually pacing the book so it doesn’t lose a child’s interest half way through. I like the whole process.

Q. I know that you have illustrated several picture books. Do you have any favorites?



DW. I have been fortunate enough to get to illustrate the stories of some very talented writers, so I wouldn't dare pick a favorite! As far as my illustrations go, I was really pleased with the look of "Crocodaddy", "Before You Were Mine", "Bears On Chairs", and "No More Por Favor" (which releases late this Spring), even though they are all really different from one another.

I don't know if this is just me or if all artists are like this, but I generally find "the next book I'm working on" to be the one I'm most excited about. I think that may be a symptom of a little attention deficit disorder though!

One of these days I hope to take a shot at writing and illustrating my own book, so hopefully that one will be my clear favorite!

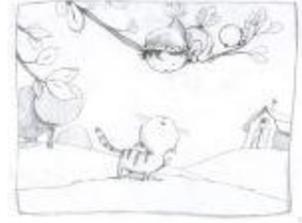


Q. What materials do you like to work with when creating your illustrations?

DW. I start my illustrations with pencil sketches (which may actually be my favorite part of the process), but I paint them in acrylic paint on 3 ply paper. It dries quickly, doesn't smear, and is pretty forgiving if I decide to go back and make changes to the painting.

Q. Who are the picture book artists that you most admire?

DW. Way too many to mention, as there is an intimidating amount of talent working in this field. I can say I consistently like the work of William Joyce, Lauren Child, Polly Dunbar, Oliver Jeffers.... the list goes on and on and frankly, is making me re-think this career choice of mine... maybe I should move on to the next question!



Q. Where can fans go to learn more about you and your books?

DW. One of my many New Year's resolutions is to add updates to my web site a little more often! Hopefully this resolution will stick, as opposed to a few of the others that have already slipped away. I'm at www.davidwalkerstudios.com , and should have a bunch of new images, studio photos and announcements a little later this spring to coincide with some product releases, so please keep checking in.



Q. Is there anything else you'd like to tell picture book fans?

DW. Mostly, I would just say "thanks". I realize I am ridiculously fortunate to have a career that allows me to paint all day, and it's no small thing to me when a parent tells me they shared my books with their child. Pretty cool to have a job like this— guess I need to thank my parents again for the endless stream of sketch books I filled up as a kid too!

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