



The Art of Making Children's Books

G26070312

with Colter Jackson

July 19-25, 2026

Hi there!

I can't wait to work with you to get your book into the world. I'm crazy for picture books and my hope is that this class will have you well on your way to publishing your first picture book or two!

ITINERARY

Sunday:

- Arrive/settle in 3:00pm
- 6:30 Ghost Ranch orientation

Monday:

- 9:00-12:00
 - Orientation, Greetings and Assessment
 - Review our favorite picture books
 - Dissecting a picture book (no books will be harmed during this exercise)
 - Picture Book Basics
- 1:30-3:30



- Ideation. We will go through many thought exercises to mine your imagination for stories.

Tuesday:

- 9:00–12:00
 - Review ideas together as a class. We will spend the morning in a group brainstorm for each person's idea (story idea and/or visual idea).
- 1:30–3:30
 - Art Demo + Time to work + independent mentoring

Wednesday:

- 9:00–12:00
 - Finding your voice (visual voice or writing voice)
- 1:30–3:30
 - Art Demo + Time to work + independent mentoring

Thursday:

- 9:00–12:00
 - Potentially a small group activity like a hike.
 - Independent mentoring while working
- 1:30–3:30
 - Independent mentoring while working



Friday:

- 9:00-12:00
 - Industry basics

- 1:30-3:30
 - Questions/Discussion of more ideas generated throughout the week

Materials to bring:

Everyone please bring:

Your 2 most favorite picture books

Hiking Boots

Plenty of sketchbook paper/notebooks

If you are interested in learning Procreate, please have your iPad and Apple Pencil with Procreate downloaded, locked and loaded and ready to party.

Pens/pencils

The art supplies you want to use or experiment with

Both your sense of adventure and your sense of humor

Your idea

If you are interested in illustrating your book, please bring:

Art supplies that you are interested in using for your book or that you currently use



Tracing paper

Materials supplied:

Enthusiasm

My favorite picture books

Art supplies to experiment with

Recommended experience:

A love of storytelling

Class Prep:

Spend some time getting deep into the picture book world at your local library or bookstore.

THE 411 ON YOUR INSTRUCTOR:

Colter Jackson is the author/illustrator of *We Are the Fireflies* (forthcoming), *A Sleuth of Bears*, *Everyday Brave*, *The Rhino Suit* and *Elephants Make Fine Friends*. You can find more of her work in the *New York Times*, *Tin House*, *The Rumpus* and elsewhere. Colter has been a Ledig House International Fellow and a recipient of the Helene Wurlitzer Grant. She has been awarded fellowships for Hedgebrook, MacDowell, UCROSS, VCCA, Millay and the Atlantic Center for the Arts. Originally from rural Missouri, she has a soft spot for wide, blue skies, Dolly Parton and tomatoes from a garden. She loves books so much that one day she'll probably turn into a book. www.colterjackson.com