Young Authors Book Requirements

1. **Story type – Myth**

The story should be in the form of a myth. A myth is a story that is not true that gives an explanation for why something is the way that it is.

1. **Question**

Each student chooses a question that is answered in the telling of the story.

Ex: Why do giraffes have long necks?

1. **Quotations**

Each story should have a couple examples of characters talking to each other and using proper quotation marks to show what is actually spoken by each character.

Ex: “Let’s go to the pool” Molly suggested. “But it’s raining outside” Sarah replied.

1. **Beginning**

This could be just a couple sentences introducing the main character and the setting.

1. **Middle**

This is the bulk of the story where the problems occur and are resolved.

1. **End**

This wraps the story up and gives the answer to the question in the story.

1. **Grammar and Punctuation**

The story should be checked for spelling and grammatical errors.

1. **Page breaks**

The way we were writing these books was for a younger audience so there should not be many words on each page. A few sentences should be fine. Students are encouraged to play around with placing the wording on the page to create movement and space for illustrations.

1. **Illustrations**

The pictures should be drawn by hand, not found on the internet and copy and pasted on the page.

1. **Title Page (example on the next page)**

This should have the name of the book and who wrote and illustrated it. It may have a picture but does not need one.

1. **Dedication Page (example on pages below)**

Most books have a page that says who the book was written for or in honor of.

1. **About the Author Page (example on pages below)**

Most books also contain a page or cover about the author to get to know them a little bit better.

How the Parrot Learned to Talk

Written and Illustrated by

Tracy Perkinson

I am dedicating this book to my best friend Nicole who absolutely loves birds of all kinds and has always wanted a parrot of her own.

About the Author

Tracy grew up in Kansas City, Missouri along with her three brothers and one sister. Growing up she loved making up stories, playing with her stuffed animals and dressing up her pet dog. She went to college in Iowa surrounded by farms with other kinds of animals. She is now married and lives in Lansing, Illinois and works as a teacher. Although she does not have a pet of her own she still enjoys watching other people’s pets and playing with animals any chance she gets.