



# THE IMPORTANCE OF ARTWORK

By Mélanie Watt, author/illustrator

Artwork can transport us to enchanting places and most importantly, it can inspire kids to explore their own creativity.

I think artwork in a picture book is what initially speaks to children. I constantly question myself on how I can make my pages more interesting and fun for a four-year-old.

Colour is a key element in my artwork. I like to work on creating light and shadow; it brings life and energy to my paintings. When illustrating my books, I like to imagine a child's point of view. I'm always surprised to see how attentive kids can be during story time and how they apply their own experiences to interpret the story. They also have the ability to notice details in the art that grown-ups often overlook. That's why I have a great time trying to integrate special elements in order to catch a child's attention.

*Reading a story should be like going on an adventure.  
Let kids guide you through the book; it's a lot more fun that way!*



## MY TIPS TO HELP CHILDREN ENJOY BOOKS

- \* When choosing a picture book, parents can consider what their child is visually drawn to. Are they mostly attracted to bright colours and simple art or do they enjoy books with plenty of details that encourage them to explore every page?
- \* When reading a picture book, find creative ways to stimulate your kid's imagination. The opportunities of creating links between a storybook and real-life events are endless.
- \* Encourage them to draw a picture based on their favourite book character. Illustrations are the perfect way to introduce a child to art and media like: watercolour, acrylic and pastels.

Check the Kids Can Press website for more information about Mélanie Watt and her published works:  
<https://www.kidscanpress.com/creators/melanie-watt/223>

