Children's Book Publishing: From Messy Drafts to Published Books! Collated by Chris Soul

SF Said's process to publication for his wonderful book 'Varjak Paw'

You can see more of his process here at the British Library: https://www.bl.uk/coll ection-items/variak-p aw-by-sf-said-illustra ted-by-dave-mckean -manuscript-drafts-a nd-printed-book

The same and the tops and the The view metaled any printing . In printing the second will be printing and the second section of the second When he through more was looking. Variak Paw padded up to the on door. He could use the meters on the other side. He could abnow feel the firsth air, brushing through his whiskers. He malged it open ----"Variak Paw?" It was Dad. "Where do you think you're going 'Aren't we allowed in the garden, new? he said "Superfront' and Mass. employments his collar, 'he packet data stage. You're a melioner cat. A pure level Mesopotamian filtar. What Variat looked around at the deery old corpets; the stuffy furnition The lading satisfie that trickled through the thick groon windows of the Contestab house, and the custains he want't allowed to climb. He'd never here anywhere else, but this had to be the most boring place on earth. 'Hanting,' he said. 'Assn't we supposed to hear?' The takes talk above

mattheir ascenter, Islal had green eyes. Everyone in the family had them surveyer but Variak Pare. 'Takes are for kittern,' scotted Julius. Their

CRAPTER ON
Dust over dial about 9
Varjak Pare eyed the cartain.
"Don't even think about it, overtheart," wid Morn.
He thought about it. It looked possible. Very possible.
"I estan it, Varjak. Get away from these cartains right now." He
sprinted up at the tail. Made a few quick calculations.
"Varjah!"
Too late.
Faded velvet flew past his eyes as Varjak owarmed ap, hind legs
thrasting, sp. frost pows scrabiling, sp. and sp. and sp. till be made the cartain
mil, invathing hard, but home and dry.
A cloud of grey dast rose around him. Varjak suscend. Clearly, so-one
had been here fix years.
"Yarjak Pav? Cone down this instant"
its looked at the greand. It was a long way to fall. The view woldded
degreedy.
Varjak held on to the nail. He crossed to non. The view stopped
wolding, and utiled down.
And what a view!
The world stored on its head. Nothing was where it should be. Manty
chairs long expended. Dusty candienticle store to an opside-down table.

De. Morty in fact. He granned.

Concentre nues repaire Little

the links from one diagrams It was a Julia sale, one of the Serie. Yielph local to hear his granifiables's rates a dy's famous accurace how field longin the fewerer survice can, how he say the algebra

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mar, he would to give in "Any "sur allowed in the party, new?" he said

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the herse! She sound be fed like a proper heavy United and tended by high and United to the set of the set and the set of the the the set of the set of the set of the the set of the set of the set of the the set of the set of the set of the the set of the set of the set of the the set of the set of the set of the the set of the set of the set of the the set of the set of the set of the the set of the set of the set of the set of the the set of the set of the set of the set of the the set of the set of the set of the set of the the set of the the set of the the set of the the set of the the set of the the set of the Hartes State

Chapter One

further than any cat had been before.

show was always closed. The whole brane was like that. Nothing new or "Notwop new ever happened



"Who knows if we mally had an anosetic called Idad?" said Man. "And

not imprime miner Christian" She sended. "Now some and be fed, like a prope

"I just don't understand birs," granted Dad. He turned his bick on

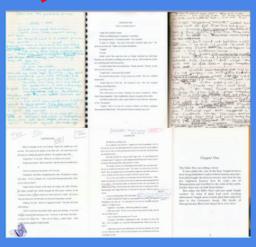
Meconstantian Blue. It's the delicious red can variety tonight.

To show children the dedication, editing, time, perseverance it takes to get a book published.

Nothing is perfect straight away. Keep trying and you'll get there!

chrissoul.co.uk

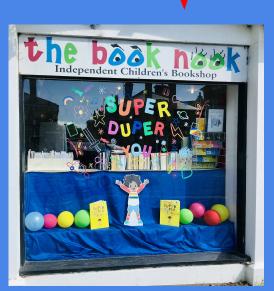




ing: ooks!

There is a huge journey from an author's idea to a book that appears in a bookshop.

- Edit, edit, edit a book that an agent and a publisher wants to publish.
- 2) An agent and publisher will edit your story even more with you.
- The publisher will have editors, designers, publicists, illustrators that work on the book to make it the best it can be.
- 4) The book is printed. Proof copies are printed first and further corrections made.
- Finally the book is delivered to bookshops!



Varjak Paw

VARIAK PAW

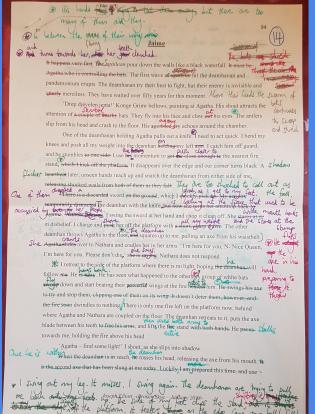
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Tamsin Winter, author of 'Jemima Small Versus the Universe' shows us a stack of drafts...

"The many many drafts of JEMIMA SMALL VERSUS THE UNIVERSE and (finally!) the finished book. Don't give up!"



Children's Book Publishing: From Messy Drafts to Published Books! Collated by Mr C Soul



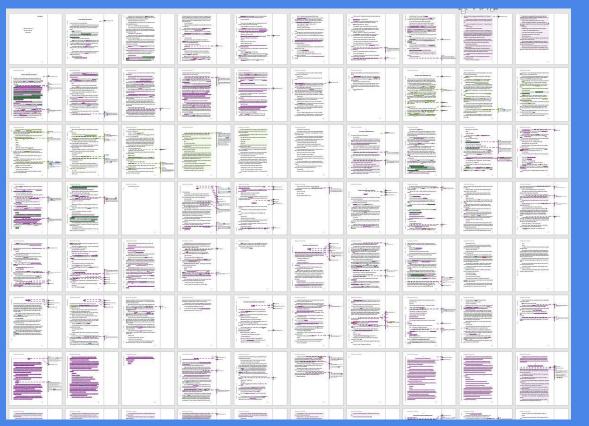
Joseph Elliott, author of 'The Good Hawk' shows us the colourful notes he makes on a draft.

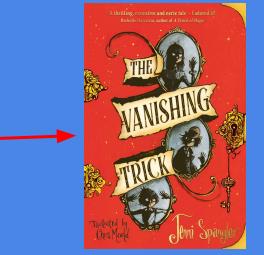
"A very messy (never seen before!) page from an early version of The Good Hawk. Think I was already on draft 4 by this point, and still LOTS of changes to be made"



Jenni Spangler, author of 'The Vanishing Trick' shows us 50 edited pages - wow!

Collated by Mr C Soul

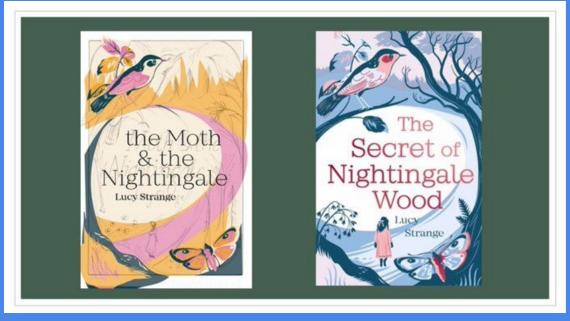




"This is the first 50 pages of The Vanishing Trick - the purple and green are the editor's notes. Think there might be one page in there which didn't need changes."

"My first book, THE SECRET OF NIGHTINGALE WOOD took 3 years from writing the first sentences to being published. Multiple rewrites and significant edits. It went from 106,000 words to 60,000 words (we CUT 46,000 words!!!). It was tough. But we got

there in the end!"



Collated by Mr C Soul

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	- Panse It has a portune in register. - Pence/spilled It count and at is they.
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"Ah, haven't revisited my early notes in years! They're just snatches of scenes and odd words & phrases. It was five years from this page before Tiger Skin Rug was a book



Name	Date modified	Туре	Size
THE MARINERS Chapter breakdown	19/08/2014 12:23	DOCX Document	170 KB
THE MARINERS Chapter breakdown[1]	19/08/2014 12:23	DOCX Document	170 KB
The Mariners d2 May 2014	19/08/2014 12:23	DOCX Document	329 KB
The Mariners d2 May 2014[1]	19/08/2014 12:23	DOCX Document	333 KB
The Mariners d2 May 2014-1	19/08/2014 12:23	DOCX Document	345 KB
The Mariners d2 rewrite notes	19/08/2014 18:16	DOCX Document	64 KB
The Mariners notes	20/12/2014 13:59	DOC Document	30 KB
The Mariners v2	03/01/2015 14:13	DOCX Document	56 KB
THE MARINERS version 2 d1 jan 2015	31/01/2015 15:30	DOCX Document	181 KB
the mariners additional	04/02/2015 12:00	Text Document	6 KB
THE MARINERS - d1 rewrite notes	20/03/2015 15:27	DOC Document	21 KB
mariners work pages	19/06/2015 10:42	DOCX Document	152 KB
THE MARINERS version 2 d1 jan 2015 - u	27/06/2015 03:09	DOCX Document	290 KB
The Mariners v2d2 May 2015	30/06/2015 14:19	DOC Document	886 KB
The Mariners - notes for D2	01/07/2015 23:48	DOC Document	222 KB
The Mariners - V2D3 Jul 2015 - work copy	10/07/2015 18:08	DOC Document	793 KB
The Mariners - V2D3 Jul 2015	11/07/2015 14:22	DOC Document	861 KB
The Mariners - V2D3 working copy 2 jul 2	15/07/2015 12:52	DOC Document	777 KB
mariners map - pavilion etc	15/07/2015 13:19	JPG File	1,507 KB
THE MARINERS draft 1 - reading copy jul	16/07/2015 19:05	DOC Document	671 KB
mariners map rough	20/07/2015 10:47	WPS PDF Document	117 KB
mariners map rough	20/07/2015 10:52	PNG File	405 KB
THE MARINERS draft 1 - reading copy jul	20/07/2015 10:53	DOC Document	1,081 KB
THE MARINERS draft 1 - reading copy jul	19/03/2016 09:04	DOC Document	1,081 KB
THE MARINERS draft 1 - working copy wi	19/03/2016 13:41	DOC Document	1,592 KB
The Mariners - draft 1 with map 2016	31/03/2016 09:50	DOC Document	1,588 KB
The Mariners - draft 1 chapter breakdow	25/05/2016 09:08	DOC Document	64 KB

Tom Huddleston, author of 'Floodworld' took 8 years...

"Before we settled on FLOODWORLD, the book was called THE MARINERS. These screenshots illustrate the absurd number of drafts it went through, and the years it took. There's even one from 2010 somewhere. The moral is: keep going, you'll get there. Eventually."

🗐 The Mariners - draft 2 jul 2016
The Mariners - draft 2 notes
🗐 mariners d2
The Mariners – blurb for rights guide
The Mariners - draft 2 working copy 2016
The Mariners - draft 2 feb 2017
EK comments The Mariners - draft 2 feb
The Mariners D3 - cut 04-17
The Mariners D3 - cut 04-17
The Mariners draft 5b notes dec 2017
The Mariners - draft 5 - Jan 2018
The Mariners d5A Dec 2017
The Mariners - Jan 2018
The Mariners - Jan 2018
the mariners draft 5b notes dec 2017
The Mariners Draft 6 notes
FLOODWORLD aka The Mariners draft 7
FLOODWORLD aka The Mariners draft 7

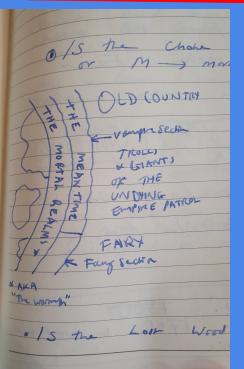
24/09/2016 19:28 26/11/2016 14:33 20/12/2016 09:22 16/01/2017 15:11 13/02/2017 09:27 13/02/2017 09:35 04/04/2017 08:03 29/04/2017 10:39 29/04/2017 10:40 09/01/2018 13:41 12/01/2018 13:07 12/01/2018 14:31 19/01/2018 15:36 19/01/2018 15:37 14/03/2018 09:04 19/03/2018 13:56 24/09/2018 12:09 26/09/2018 14:06



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Louie Stowell shows her doodles and notes that formed ideas for 'Otherland' (20 years in the making!)







"I ask myself lots of questions while planning."

Collated by Mr C Soul

Wasp Wap. wan that Give eanut Wobbley Sticky Smells rice Has bits in it akos On touch Jan tark Rice pudding Pancakes

Chrissie Sains used mind-maps and diagrams to help her write 'An Alien in the Jam Factory'



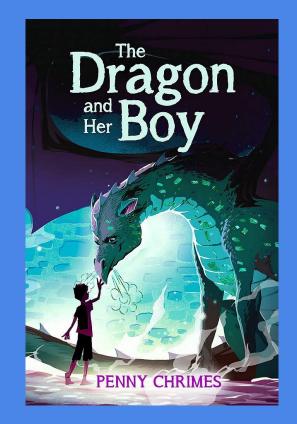
An ALTERN THE JOAN Factory CHRISSIE SAINS

"#AlienintheJamFactory started with lots of sketches of machinery and brainstorms about jam to develop the factory. I got ideas from other places too and made a scrapbook which I'm still using for book 2"

60 Tom + SHELL'S Prod 00000 my 9 62-67 50 inpressed - set of Chapio 68-71 age 11 72 -76 autorps + coach apizi (4) 17-81 Chy 13 82-56 Share hearing Bot 6 arthougs - haystach - Tom's Cup 14 87 - 93 D Night. Steer + nove - ha py -5 Mph Chap 15 94 -97 Top I hegher austeries - village - tout met - all Crup 16 102 - 407 CC (4) Show sover (1205) drogs 10 PART> Chap 17, 109-113 hitchigs rabbes 5 118-11 Prayer's law - info about children cno 18 6 10 05 - 126 any 19 - PScope + He man $\overline{7}$ Euge 20127-138/ autorings and ford / malyland Chip 21 35-141 Scrope + compets 8 $\overline{(7)}$ Chap 22 142 - 149 Scrape mech dagan (8) Chip 23 150 -155 Strell + marm (P) chip24 159-166 Sheet - Daring hard 8 Chyp 25 127-173 Shick + gutterys reduce. $(\tilde{\mathbf{D}})$ chap26 174-195189 Shere faces patter chip 27 180 -187 Swen serviced crep automas rescue dragon chap 28 18 -196

"The plan for <u>#DragonAndHer</u> <u>Boy</u>! Organised chaos!"

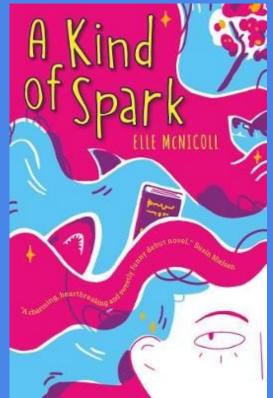
Penny Chrimes wrote an outline of her chapters for 'The Dragon and Her Boy'



Collated by Mr C Soul

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"I make untidy notes between drafts. This was between drafts one and two of A Kind of Spark (then called Finding Electricity)."



Elle McNicholl's Waterstones Book of the Month 'A Kind of Spark' was originally called 'Finding Electricity'.

Anna Hoghton explains why messy scribbles are a sign of intelligence and creativity.

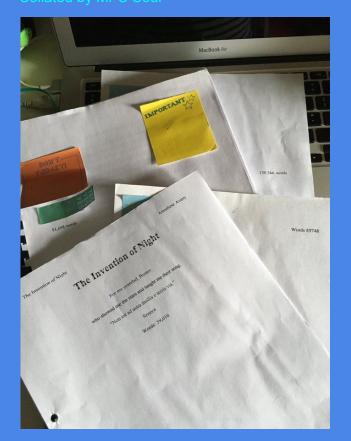
"When I was at school, I remember losing marks because I couldn't keep my ideas inside the boxes in exams. I would do stars and arrows all over the page and write in the margins and upside down. I always felt like I was failing when I saw how neat others were.

Then I had a teacher who told me that this was a sign of intelligence and creativity. It changed everything. Now, the messier my notebook is the better (I'd share a photo but I cross things out so fiercely that there's not a lot to see). Good ideas start as scribbles and chaos.

It takes dedication and perseverance to sit down and untangle those ideas into something that makes sense. But don't worry if your ideas don't start out like that. In fact, it's a great thing if they don't!"

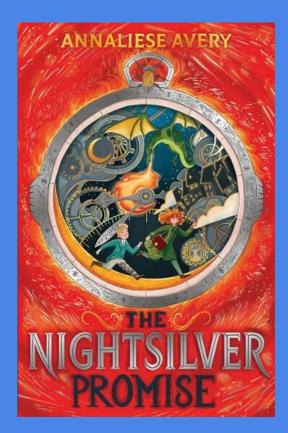


Annaliese Avery shows us her drafts and post-its...

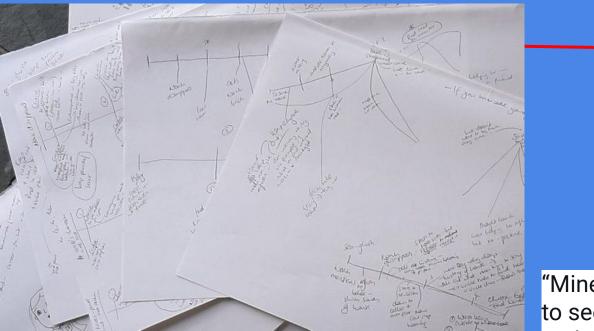


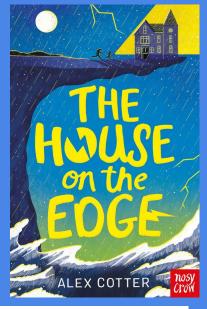


"My drafts of what was called The Invention of Night now The #NightsilverPromise final draft/edit came in at just under 65,000 words. Cutting and editing and chopping and rewriting to get it right!"



Alex Cotter shows us her A3 sheets for planning.





"Mine is all about the A3, trying to see the bigger picture - some early planning notes for #TheHouseOnTheEdge"

Joanne O'Connell also uses A3 to plan out chapters...

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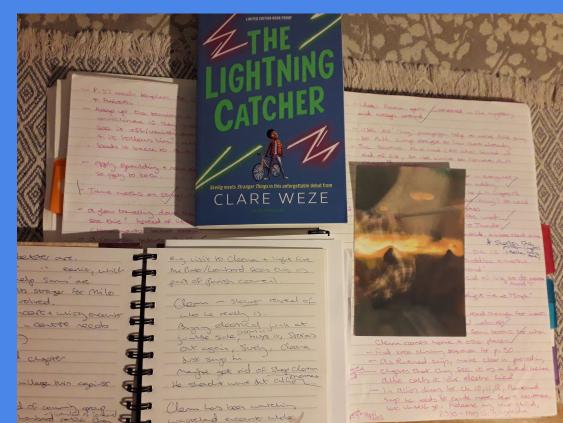
"I love showing kids all of my editors' red pen marks on track changes! I write out chapter points on A3 paper time and again as the story takes shape. It helps to see the whole thing on one

page."



Clare Weze shows us notepads and how even photographic accidents can be inspiration...

Collated by Mr C Soul

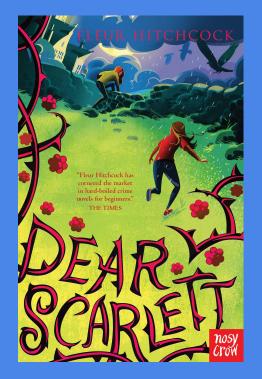


"Lots of notebooks and even more laptop files made THE LIGHTNING CATCHER (plus a photographic accident/experiment by one of my sons)"

Fleur Hitchcock shows her scribbled notes that formed ideas for her book 'Dear Scarlett'

FAMUS DISKSMAN & achivered u inheriti : Inside, she finds a a shell, a betting slip, a piece of tabric, some photo. along with scardy cat dead letter boxes. SUSTE + 6 Aby butter people from his life. reiloning things he own to their nahold amers need a wee! Dything things vight. Hungs from his past Banding in Beds. stolen -V * from past - ginlig her something? cheating in some way - back to front Things he willes he had done. Dead Lother tox Ideas - RFH Cabin on London Eye. piece of bunting

"Here's the first scribbles for Dear Scarlett - the book changed so much from here. This was a kernel of an idea a long, long way from the final thing."

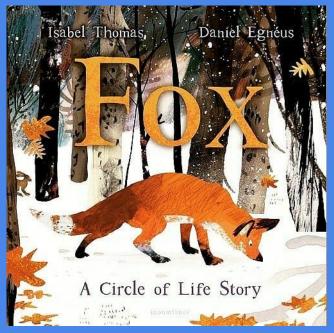


Isabel Thomas shows her notes for 'Fox'

Collated by Mr C Soul

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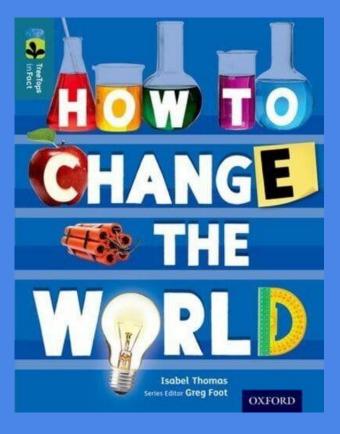
"My very first brainstorm for Fox: A Circle of Life Story. The scary dog did not make it into the final story!"



Isabel Thomas shows her notes for 'How to Change the World'. Award-winning notes?

AUNTE AZ but reading bogsphy, thy

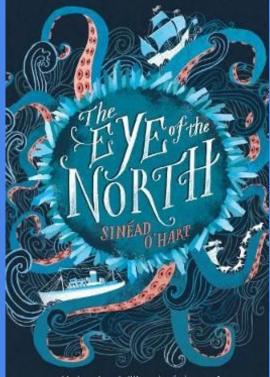
"My first brainstorm for How To Change the World which went from this scrappy piece of paper to winning a prize from @royalsociety !!!"



Sinead O'Hart shows us her jottings.

Jech marth

"Here's a picture of some of my chaotic notes. I do so much planning/plotting/brainstorming by hand before I ever write a word. And every book I've written has had to be rewritten - often many times! Published books take *loads* of work, but it's always worth it."



"A charming, thrilling tale of adventure" Knon Millsood Hagene, antor of Die Gel q' Mi and Sorr

Dan Smith shows his notebooks and jottings too...



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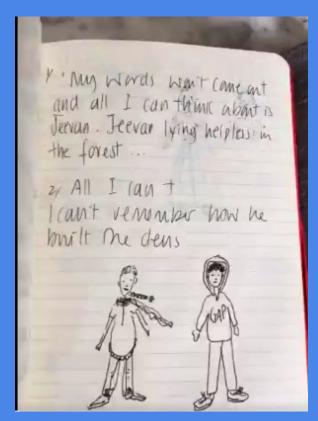
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HERE TO

"I always have lots of messy research notes, editorial notes, planning notes, notes and notes and notes. Nothing is ever right first time!"



Jasbinder Bilan, Costa Children's author of the year, flicks through her notebook...



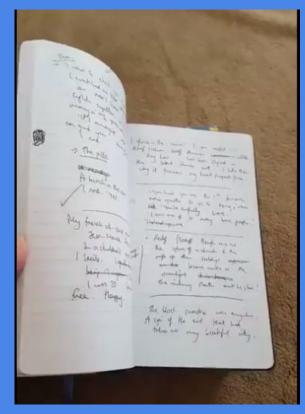
nttps://twitter.com/i/status/1364179 078664900608

"Lots of notes in early stages, so many versions, a whole year editing and changing from past to present tense - and then ta daaaa!!!!"



Sufiya Ahmed flicks through her notebook. See video link below.

Collated by Mr C Soul

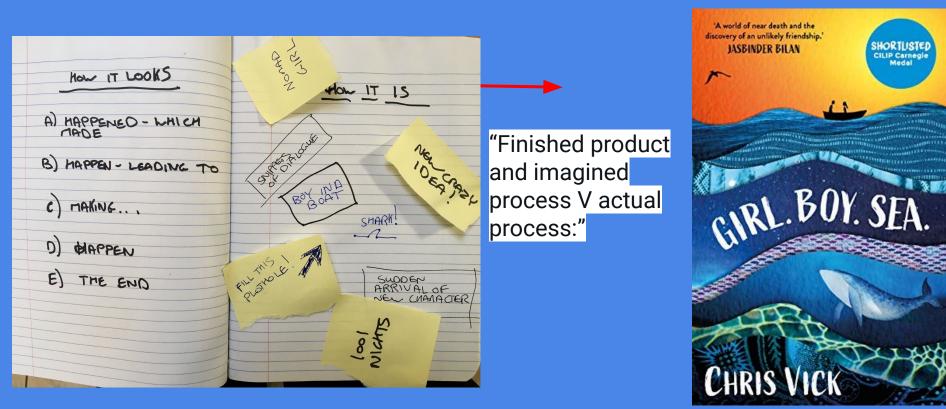


https://twitter.com/i/status/1364268 598018080773

"First draft is just lots of notes and ideas. Then countless redrafts before being handed to an editor (for more editing)"

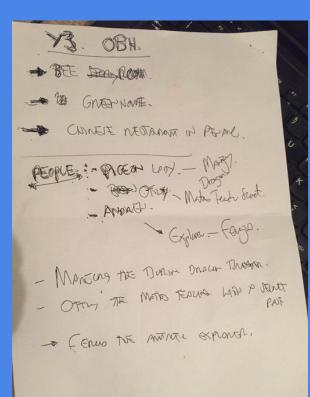


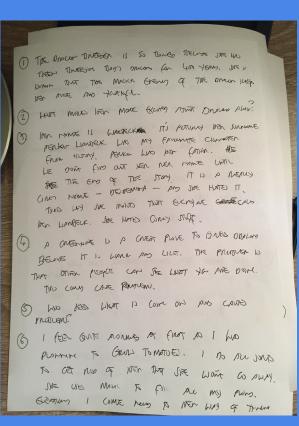
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James Campbell shows us it's all about the notes.

Collated by Mr C Soul









"My writing process is like embroidery. I get the outline down first and then I fill in the colour to bring it to life." **Vanessa Harbour, author of 'Flight'**



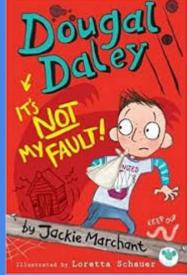
Jackie Marchant shows her scribbled notes on her typed manuscript.

The And Deal Honoral of Dearson Therein Jackie Marchan I'M DOUGAL DALEY - IT'S NOT MY FAULT! your baby teeth in 2-I think they're rather revolting (although you looked very sweet before they fet out. You were such a cute baby - hard to believe now). Love, Mum xx UHh To my dad I leave the three pairs of old trainers he bought for me in the jumble sale. He said they were good trainers, so he can have them. I'll stick to the lost property ones, keth! which, though very old, are of a much more superior quality. I have now looked at the stuff Mum left on my desk and I bequeath it as follows: To Mum I leave the recipe for pizza, which I made last term at school. It's easy to make and is home made. Burgers and sausages make a very good topping and it's best eaten with lots of tomato sauce and chips. It is very healthy The tin of baby teeth, I leave to the goldfish, for their tank. They could mark out a alom on the ground that they could weave around, to relieve the boredom of swimming around a tank all day One pair of glasses, which I never wear, because I can see perfectly well without them. I fooled the optician into believing I couldn't see anything, by screwing up my

face and gotting all the letters wrong. Then he put some lenses on, which made it so had that I wally couldn't see the brhart and then he got very confused and gave me some glasses anyway, which / never wear because I don't need them. I leave these to Dad – he can use them to find his glasses, which he can never find because he can't see them. That's all Mum left on my desk, the other stuff was there already, I think. Dad can also have my football boots. If he hadn't become a window cleaner, he says he might well have been a professional footballer. Mum says it's lucky he chose windows.

> I DONT WANT YOUR BOOTS. THEY STINK AND ARE COVERED IN MUD BECAUSE YOU NEVER CLEAN THEM. PS- STOP ANNOYING YOUR SISTER.

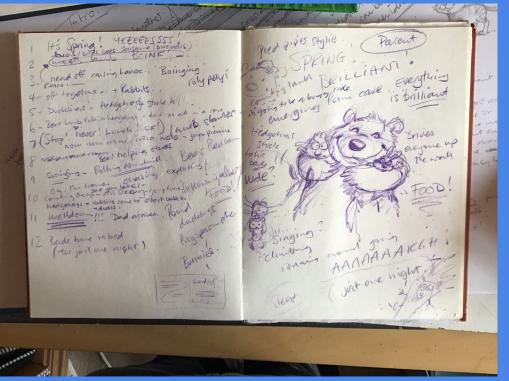
The posh statue of a footballer, which Uncle William gave me, I give to Tom, the coach of my team, Ocklesford Rovers. Tom can use it as the Man of the Match trophy. It will replace the one that got



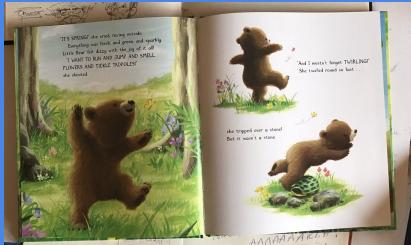
"Most of my 'writing' is re-writing. Here's an example - and the edited version didn't even make it into the book!"

Steve Smallman shows his sketching development...

Collated by Mr C Soul



"This is how A Friend for Bear started in my sketchbook: This is how it finished :"



James Mayhew shows us his desk...

Collated by Mr C Soul



"My desk right now... You don't want to see the rest of my studio. #messyartist"



Corrina Campbell shows how illustrations even change until publication...



"PICTURE ON THE RIGHT how it started PICTURE ON THE LEFT how it finished

A lot of practise, a long time and buckets full of determination."

Children's Book Publishing: From Messy Drafts to Published Books! Collated by Mr C Soul



"I rewrote #PinkLion TEN times: here's all the dummy books - and the finished one... There's more about the whole process here: http://janeporter.co.uk/illustrations/"



Children's Book Publishing: From Messy Drafts to Published Books! Collated by Mr C Soul

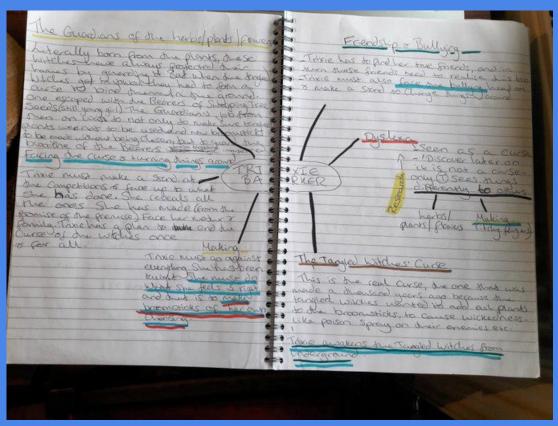
Writer Aidan Onn uses real maps and puts them together to understand where is story is set!

"Some exhaustive geographical research going on here as I painstakingly (and very messily) plot out the shoreline of Loch Ness for my middle-grade adventure: Beastie in the Loch."



Writer Charlett Goretzka uses notebooks

Collated by Mr C Soul



"Current work in progress. Usually have one notebook for each novel I write. Children's Book Publishing: From Messy Drafts to Published Books! Collated by Mr C Soul

Moral of the story: Don't give up!

Writing takes time until it becomes a polished gem.