

Toby



How Toby's Book Was Created

For use with Toby's Teachers Guide

Having the idea

The first thing you need to do when writing a story is to **think of an idea**. Ideas can come from all sorts of places. Because Toby was my real adopted dog, my idea came easily. Toby was my **inspiration** and how I rescued him sparked the idea for writing the story.



Toby is so cute I started drawing him as soon as he came to live with me. His different expressions are interesting to draw - happy, sad, wary, scared, curious. I decided he would make a great **character** in a children's book. I thought about having different people in the story with Toby. (I didn't think me and my husband would be very interesting!). I gave Toby a different owner and I **fictionalized** the setting. I introduced a boy and his dad as Toby's new owners.

I looked at many photos until I found one that looked like he might be Toby's boy. And then I sketched him.



Then I practiced drawing Toby over and over until I knew how to draw him perfectly.



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Writing the story

You have your idea. Now you have to write the story! Because I'm an **illustrator** as well as an **author** I often start with drawing sketches of **scenes** in the story, like these of Toby with a cat. They aren't in the final book (but there IS a scene with a kitten that Toby is scared of!).

Then I wrote all my ideas on **index cards** like this:



Putting separate scenes on index cards means you can change them around until you're happy with the story. When I'd done that and had the story as I wanted it I started to draw all the pages in the book in a rough, sketchy format, like this.



There are 40 pages in TOBY's rough book (which is called a **mock up** or **dummy book**). There's not much text at all, mainly drawings and some **dialogue**.

Now it was time to send the story to my **agent** and see if a publisher would **acquire** it and make it into a real book!

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Working with a publisher

My **agent** (Ginger Knowlton who works in New York at an agency called Curtis Brown) read TOBY and sent it to a **publisher** in Boston, Candlewick Press, who publish lots of children's books. They read it too and liked it! TOBY was **acquired** by Elizabeth Bicknell who is an **editor** (she helped me make the story really good) and I also worked with an **art director**, Ann Stott, (who helped me make decisions about the illustrations) and an **assistant editor** called Carter Hasegawa who helped with everything!



← awesome agent

CANDLEWICK PRESS



↑ excellent editor

Many people are involved in **publishing** a book including **production** people and **printers** and **publicity** and **marketing** people. That's a lot of people for one book!

After a meeting with the **editorial team**, I got back to work on TOBY. I had to make some **revisions** and the book went back and forth to Candlewick Press.



I completed about 4 or 5 **dummy books** before everyone agreed that the book was ready for the **final artwork**. It had taken about 6 months of working on sketches and writing to complete.

In this picture you can see just how many drawings and notes and sketches I made!

Now it was time to get to work and finish Toby's book.

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Illustrating the book

It takes a long time to prepare the **final artwork** for a book. There are things to consider like what kind of **medium** are you going to use (paint, pencil, digital color?). What kind of colors will you use or will the illustrations be black and white? What **size** is the book going to be and will you have **borders** around the art on each page or not? Where will the **text** go in the picture? And what kind of **font** will the publisher use? That's a lot to consider.

Luckily, my art director, Ann, helped with many of these decisions, including **what kind of paper** the book would be **printed** on. I tried different ways of **coloring** the book, including **sepia** and **full color**. We decided on full color.

The **mediums** I used to create the illustrations were **graphite pencil** to draw all the **linework** - then a **watercolor layer** for **texture and light and shade** and finally I colored the illustrations **digitally** on the computer.



Above you can see the progress of one of the images in the finished book. It's the first time Toby and the boy meet in the animal rescue shelter. The first image is the **graphite and watercolor painting**. The second image is after it has been **scanned** and made **black and white**. And the third image is the final **colored piece**. There are 68 images in the book!

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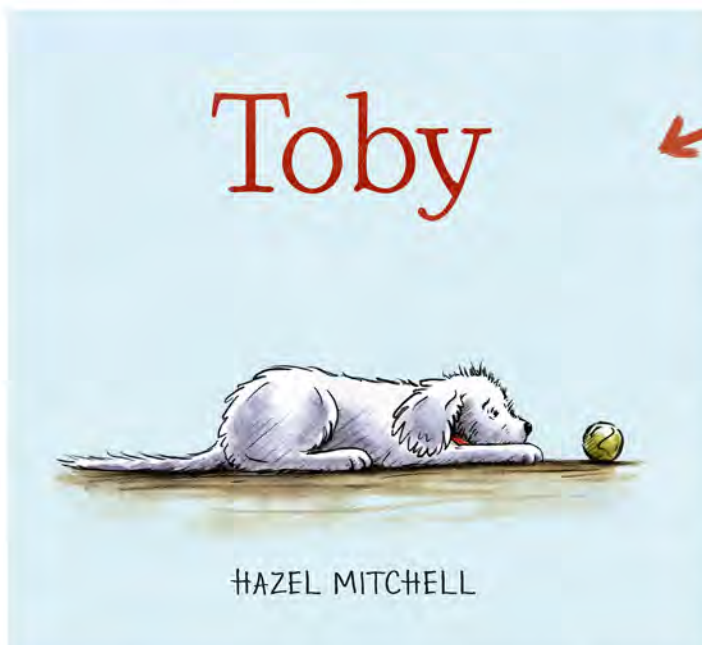
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Creating the book cover

What 's the first thing you notice about a book? The **cover** of course! When you go to the bookstore, the library or look online, the cover's the first thing you see. If you like the cover then you're probably going to be curious about the story and pick it up and read it.

What goes on the cover is an important decision usually made with the **author** and **illustrator, editor, art director** and **marketing department** at the publishers working as a team. Lots of **different ideas are considered**. Here are some of the sketches I did for TOBY's cover...



I drew many **layouts** for the **design** of the cover. This is the one that made it on to the front of the book. How does it make you feel? Is Toby sad or happy? What do you imagine he's thinking about?

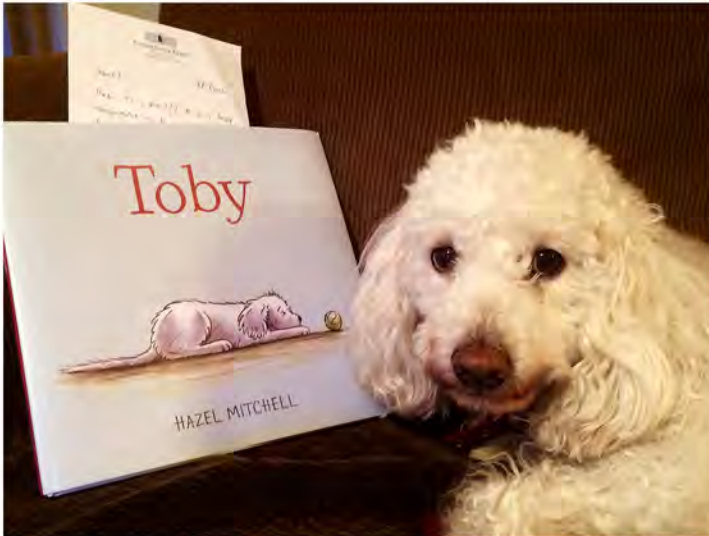
The drawing of Toby and his ball was originally on the book's interior pages. The art director suggested it might work well on the cover and it did! Other considerations were the **typefaces** for the **title** and **author's name** and the colors they would be. We decided on red to match Toby's collar and his boy's shoes.

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It's a book!



Publication day is always exciting. Everyone has worked hard to make the book and finally it's here. A real book! Time to celebrate! It's so good to hold the book in your hand (or sniff it if you're a dog!).

From the first drawings I did of Toby to the publication date took about two and a half years. It's a long time! I was ready to sit down and relax and play with the real Toby. But there's still work to do now the book is published.

When the book is in bookstores and libraries it's time to **promote** it.

Authors travel to bookstores, libraries and schools to **talk about** and **sign** their books. Perhaps an author has visited your school and shared how they created their book?

When you sit down and start writing a story, remember how many people it takes to make a book - the **author** and **illustrator**, the **publisher** and **printer**, the **designer** and the **people** who deliver the book to the **bookstores**, the **library** and **YOU**, the most important person of all, **THE READER!**



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