

Self-Publish Your Children's Picture Book Without Breaking The Bank!



*From Story to Picture Book:
a step-by-step guide.*

Robert Herrick

Self-Publish Your Children's Picture Book Without Breaking The Bank!

From story to picture book: a step-by-step guide.

By Robert Herrick



No Drawing Required Press

SUNRISE, FL

NoDrawingRequired.com

For Elizabeth

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This information is provided with the knowledge that the author/publisher does not offer any legal or other professional advice. This book does not contain all information available on the subject. Every effort has been made to make this book as accurate as possible. However, there is no guarantee that following the suggestions put forth will result in the same success as the author. Therefore, this book should serve only as a general guide and not as the ultimate source of subject information. The author/publisher shall have no liability or responsibility to any person or entity regarding any loss or damage incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, directly or indirectly, due to the information contained in this book. In the interest of full disclosure, this book contains affiliate websites. While the author/publisher takes no responsibility for the business practices of these companies and/or the performance of any product or service, the author/publisher has used the product or service and makes a recommendation in good faith based on that experience.

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Introduction

My goal in writing this book is to save you money!

PUBLISHING ON AMAZON'S KINDLE DIRECT PLATFORM

This book will show you how to publish your books on Amazon's Kindle platform. It is the best place to start your self-publishing journey.

FYI: Kindle has 70% of the U.S. Marketplace for self-published books.

WHY DIY?

Many services offer to help you get your self-published book to market. They want money or a percentage of your profits to help you.

As you will see, publishing your book isn't complicated. You can do it yourself and save lots of money. The software required is inexpensive and easy to use.

Follow the steps in this free guide.

- Save money.
- Keep the rights to your book.
- Get your book into the world's largest marketplace ASAP.
- You'll use Print-On-Demand (POD). Your books will be printed as needed and sent directly to the customer.
- This means that you don't have to order hundreds of copies, store them and ship them.

YOU ARE THE PUBLISHER

I want to clear up any confusion as to your role in the self-publishing process. You will be the publisher of your books.

You will buy your own ISBN numbers. That makes you the publisher of your books.

Amazon's Kindle Store, IngramSpark, Apple Books, and others are the printers and distributors. You are free to use any or all of these services. If you get a big order, you can get them printed at an offset print shop. The choice is up to you.

THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

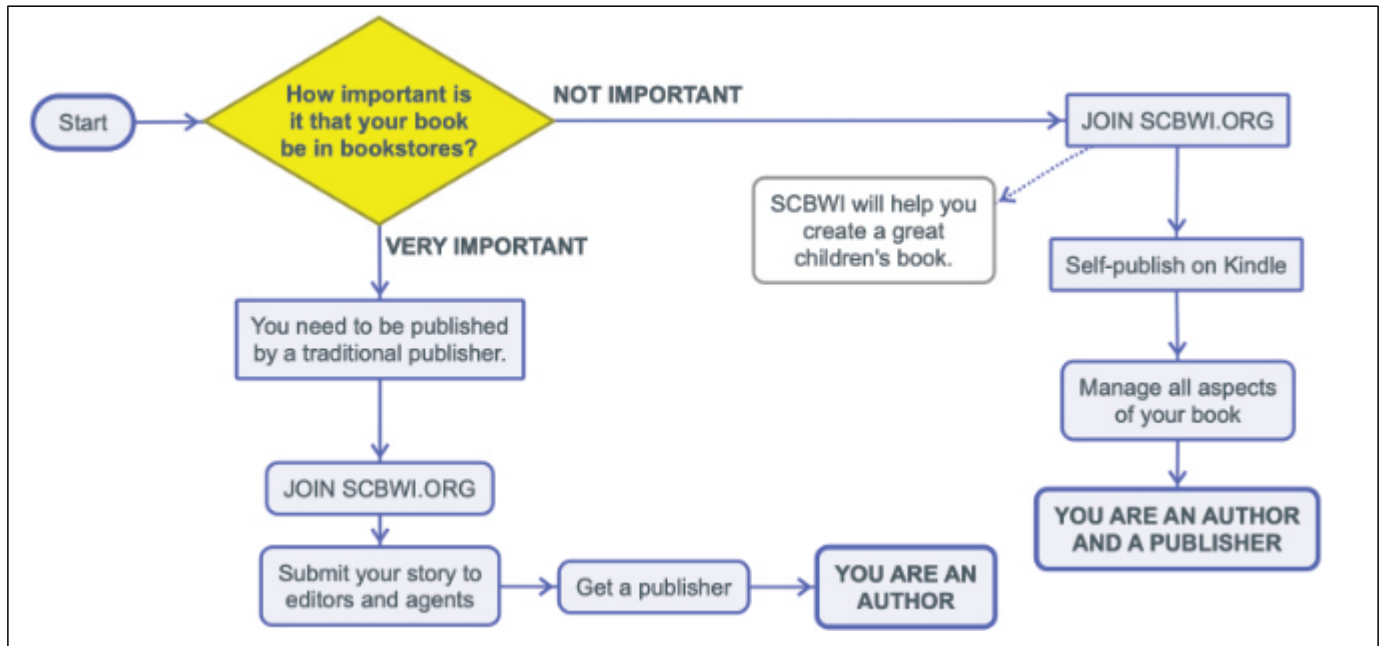
The book publishing industry has changed significantly in the past five years, and so has self-publishing. Platforms like Amazon's Kindle and Apple's iBooks give self-publishers affordable and professional outlets to release their books and eBooks.

If you find that a link isn't working, please email me at Robert@NoDrawingRequired.com

LINK: [Kindle Direct Publishing - kdp.amazon.com](https://kdp.amazon.com)

Is Self-Publishing Right For You?

Before you go any further...



IS SELF-PUBLISHING THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOU?

Do you want your book to be in bookstores?

If this is your goal, do these four things:



1. DON'T SELF-PUBLISH YOUR BOOK.

- Publishers will only be interested in your self-published book if it sells well. In this case, you might as well keep self-publishing and the lion's share of the money.

2. NEVER PAY FOR AN AGENT TO REPRESENT YOUR WORK.

- They should only make money when you make money.

3. NEVER PAY FOR A PUBLISHER TO PUBLISH YOUR BOOK.

- They take the lion's share of the money. They need to take the risk that comes along with that.

4. JOIN The Society for Children's Book Authors and Illustrators (SCBWI).

- The SCBWI offers numerous opportunities to learn and network. It is filled with caring people who will help guide you towards getting your book published.

A yearly membership is the best money you can spend toward your goal of getting published. You will find answers to all your questions about traditional and self-publishing. www.SCBWI.org

SO YOU WANT TO SELF-PUBLISH!

THE SELF-PUBLISHING STIGMA

With some exceptions, self-publishing a book is never (or at least in the near future) going to have the same prestige as a traditionally published book.

SELF-PUBLISHING A QUALITY BOOK IS A LOT OF WORK.

You are doing the work of an entire publishing house. Depending on how you plan to publish and market your book, your jobs can include writer, copy editor, book designer, illustrator, webpage designer, marketer, copywriter, salesperson, publicist, video editor, and accountant.

ABOUT THIS BOOK

At first glance, it seems like there are a lot of steps to get your book published.

There is NOTHING here that you can't do!

Take it one step at a time, and you'll be published before you know it.

DON'T PANIC

You don't have to do all those jobs to self-publish a book. It depends on what your goals are for your book. You can hire freelancers to do the jobs you don't have the skills for.

TIP:

- Do as much as you can yourself.
- Learn new skills, like creating your webpage.
- If you hire someone to do a job, make sure you have a contract with them before they start work. Have a lawyer review the contract to ensure all the essential details are included.
- If you have someone create your website. Make sure you have all the information, and passwords needed to modify or change the website. It should be in your contract that they will provide this information and will not change it without notifying you. In the future, you may need to have someone else change your website, and you don't want to be locked out of your website.

The minimum job list is writer/editor, book cover creator, and a little copywriting about yourself and your book.

YOU'RE 100% IN CHARGE!

Traditionally published children's books take two to three years, from signing the contract to seeing them on the shelves.

Once your self-published book is ready, you can have a copy in your hand within a few days.



Print Book Terms

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Let's go over how a book is printed and some printing terms. There won't be a test on any of this information. It's just to introduce you to some concepts we'll be covering. So don't worry if you don't understand it all right now.

ISBN NUMBER

The ISBN is a unique identifier for a book that specifies its format, edition, and publisher. Most people know it as the barcode on a book. In the U.S. ,they are purchased from Bowker identifier services.

LANDSCAPE VS PORTRAIT

Most books are printed in portrait orientation. Portrait orientation is where the height of the image is larger than or equal to the width. Landscape orientation works better for most picture ebooks.



LANDSCAPE ORIENTATION



PORTRAIT ORIENTATION

PIXEL

- eBook resolution is measured in pixels.
- A pixel is the smallest unit in a digital image. A JPG or other 2D image is made up of millions of pixels. Pixel is short for Picture Element.

DPI

- Print resolution is measured in DPI. *DPI stands for Dots per Inch.* Every inch of a printed page is made up of (the DPI) a number of dots.

RESOLUTION

- Resolution is the number of pixels that make up the width of an image times the number of pixels that make up the height of an image.

ASPECT RATIO

- *Aspect ratio is the ratio between the width and height of the image.*
- It is expressed as the Width and Height separated by a colon. W : H
- For example: If the aspect ratio is 8:5. For every 8 pixels across, you will have 5 down.

WHY ASPECT RATIO MATTERS:

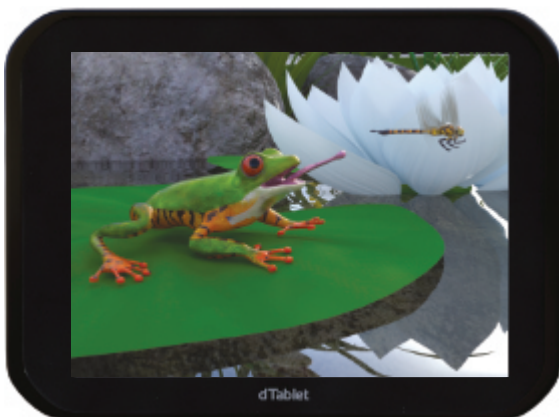
The aspect ratios of print and ebooks are different. It means full page art from eBooks won't fit on the Print book page (and vis-a-versa). We'll cover this in detail in the next section.



KINDLE FIRE HD 10 LANDSCAPE
ASPECT RATIO 5:8



ARTWORK CROPPED TO:
8.5 x 8.5 PRINT PORTRAIT
ASPECT RATIO 1:1



PICTURE ASPECT RATION MATCHES
THE EBOOK PAGE



PICTURE ASPECT RATION DOES NOT
MATCH THE EBOOK PAGE

HOW A BOOK IS PRINTED

Let's briefly discuss how your book will be printed.

So that illustrations can fill the page, the book's pages are printed on paper larger than the final book size.

The image fills the entire piece of paper. Because of this, the image "bleeds" over the edge of the paper. Then the paper is cut (trimmed) to the size of the book.

The *page bleed* allows for some paper alignment errors during the printing process. It ensures there won't be any unprinted space on the page, which would show up as white lines on the edge of your book.

Finally, there is a safe zone in the center of the page, where you put the important parts of the image.



TRIM SIZE, BLEED AND THE SAFE ZONE

Bleed Line - The "extra" part of the image that extends past the trim line. This area is cut off before the book is bound. This ensures that the image covers the entire page.

Trim Line - The line where the paper is cut after the page is printed. The final size of the book.

Safe Zone - The area where text and important parts of the image will be "safely" printed.



Correct: The picture and text are inside the safe zone.



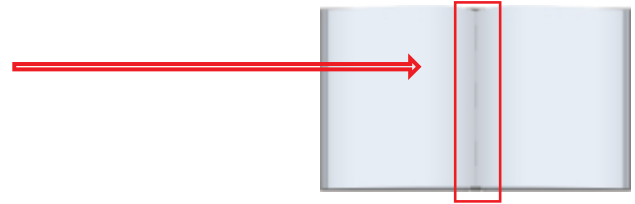
Wrong: The picture and text will get cut off when the book is printed and trimmed.

FACING PAGES

The left and right pages of an open book. The pages “face” each other.

GUTTER

The inside margin between the facing pages.



TRIM SIZE

The height and width of your printed book.

Images created for print books are MUCH larger than those for ebooks. If the image isn't large enough, it will be blurry and pixelated when printed.

Converting DPI TO Pixels and Vis-a-Versa

Since Dots = Pixels, this is an easy conversion.

For example, 8X10 is a nice size for a children's book. You will need an image that covers the entire page plus the Bleed Area.

The width in pixels would be $(8 + .125) * 300 \text{ (DPI)} = 2438$

The height in pixels would be $(10 + .250) * 300 \text{ (DPI)} = 3075$

Print books need at least 300 DPI. 400 DPI is better, but (usually) no bigger than 450 DPI.

Information about the DPI, Bleed Size, Trim Size, and Safe Zone will be found on the website of the book publisher you decide to use.

THE TAKEAWAY ABOUT CREATING IMAGES FOR PRINT

- The aspect ratio and image resolution (DPI) of a print book are different than eBooks.
- You will have two separate versions of your final book: eBook and Print.
- Books are measured in inches, not pixels.
 - To convert pixels to inches: times the Dots per inch * dimension.
- The image size for any images that will fill your pages needs to be the size of the Bleed.

LINKS:

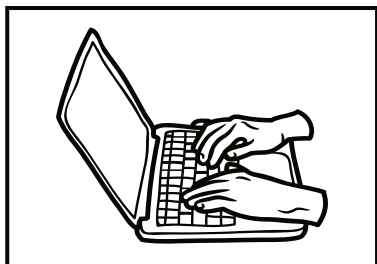
KDP: Set Trim Size, Bleed, and Margins - https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/GVBQ3CMEQW3W2VL6

OR search Google for “KDP Trim Size”

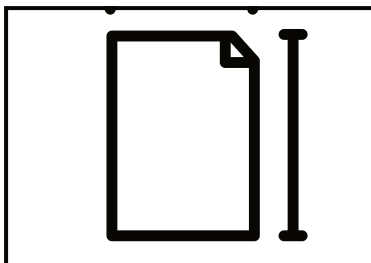
Steps to Self-Publishing on Kindle

First, Create Your Print Book

Write Your Story



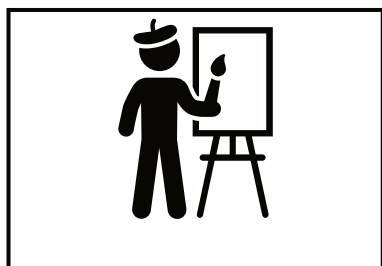
Decide on the Paper Size



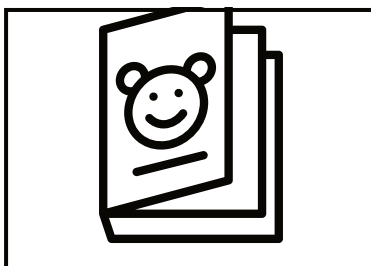
Layout Your Book



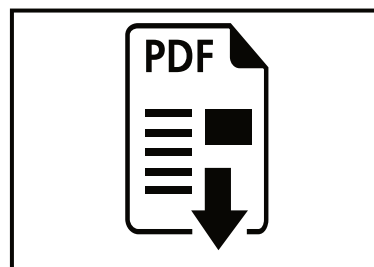
Create The Artwork



Create the Book Cover

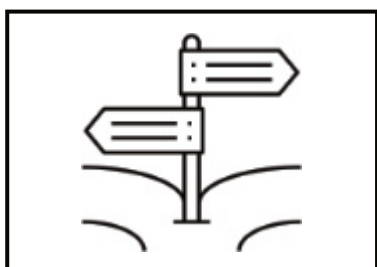


Export your PDF

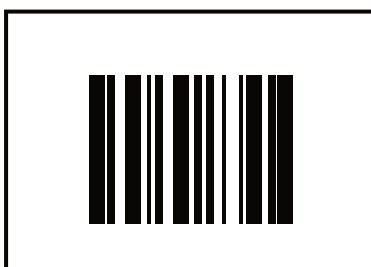


PUBLISHING STEPS

Business Decisions



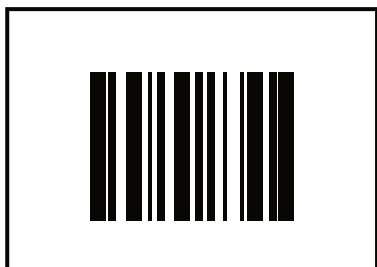
Buy Your ISBNs



Create a Kindle Account



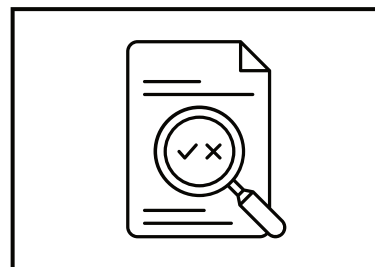
Assign a ISBN



Import Your PDF into Kindle



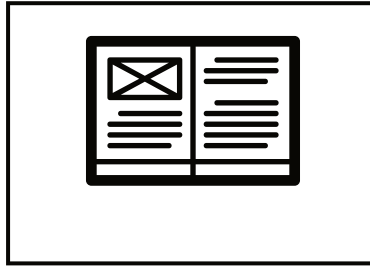
Review Your book



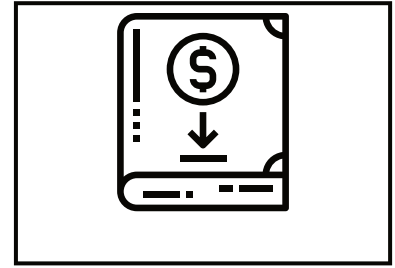
Order an Author Proof



Fix any Problems



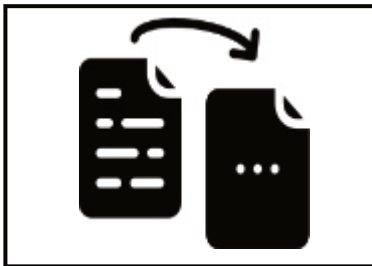
Publish Your Print Book



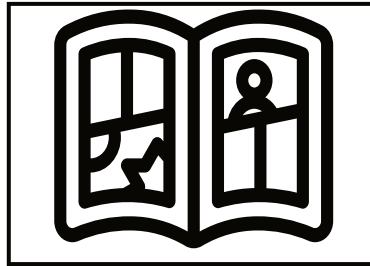
CONGRATULATIONS YOUR PRINT BOOK IS PUBLISHED

Next, Create Your eBook

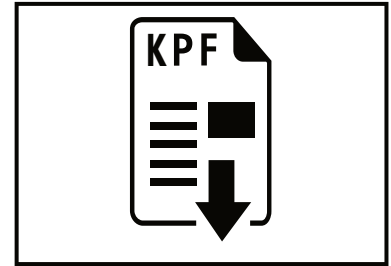
Import your PDF
with Kindle Create



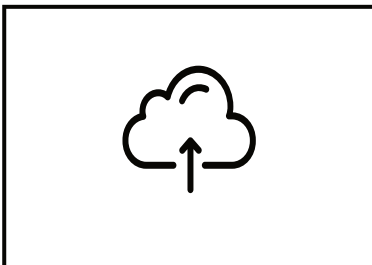
Convert to Kindle
Comic Format



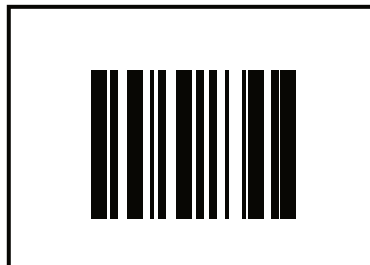
Export Your Kindle
eBook KDF



Import your eBook
KPF into Kindle



Assign a ISBN
(Optional)



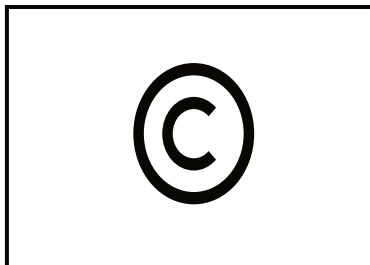
Review Your Book



Publish your eBook



Copyright Your Book



CONGRATULATIONS! YOUR EBOOK IS PUBLISHED

Write Your Story



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STORY

Your story and your characters are what matter. The best illustrator won't make a poorly written story better.

TIPS:

Put on your creative hat. Write first, edit later. Get your ideas written down. Then you have something to revise.

Join a Critique Group

Many writer's organizations, like the SCBWI, have critique groups you can join. Getting constructive feedback on your manuscript will help you improve your story.

Be open to criticism and suggestions about your story from other writers in your group. You don't have to take their advice, but at least listen with an open mind.

MAKE EVERY WORD COUNT

- Don't bog your story down with repetitive details and descriptions.
- Take a copy of your story and see how many words you can cut out.
- Remember, the artwork in your story is there to tell half of your story.
- The current publishing trend for children's books is 500 words or less.

PROOFREAD!

Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are the tools of your trade. Learn to use them effectually to craft your story

Your goal is to create a book that looks professional. It should be able to stand proudly on a shelf next to the latest, best-selling children's book.

Two things that will immediately identify your book as an inferior work are:

- Amateur artwork.
- Grammar and punctuation errors.

REVISE

Don't publish your first draft. Writing your story was a lot of work. But, Can you make it better? Read it aloud to see how it sounds. Is the moral of the story getting in the way of the story?

Your audience will never know what you left out of your story. Less is more.

IMPROVE YOUR WRITING SKILLS

For many children's book authors, it has been years since their last grammar lesson.

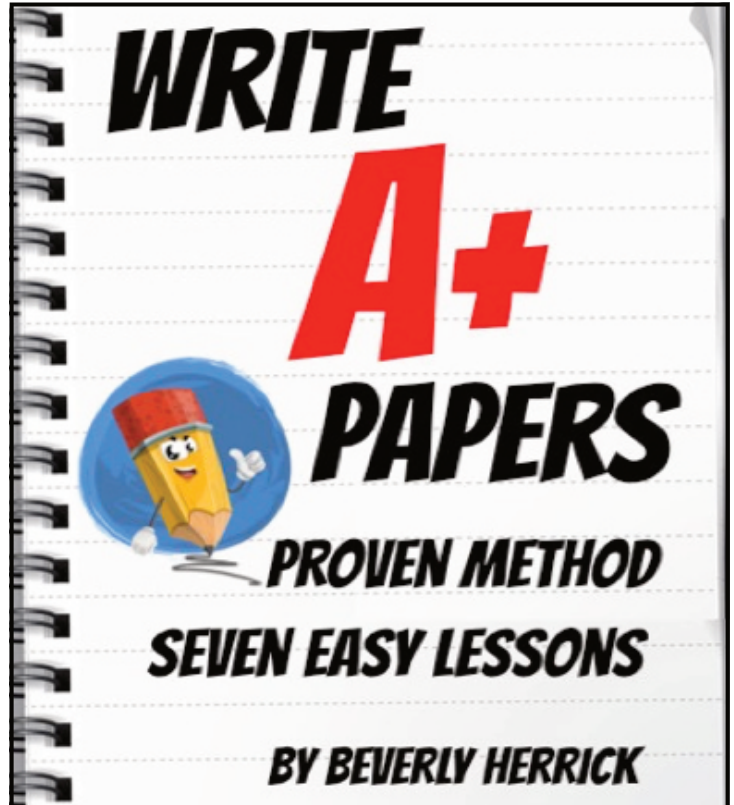
I recommend "Write A+ Papers" for a quick review.

"Write A+ Papers" uses the "Sentence Identification Method."

There are only four types of sentences. Once you can identify the sentence, it is easy to punctuate.

I'm offering "Write A+ Papers" eBook for a special price of \$2.99.

Once you know the rules, you still might want to hire an editor or invest in a Grammarly subscription.



LINKS:

Write A+ Papers - www.ubuyebooks.com

Grammarly - www.grammarly.com

***Let's Get
Started***

Choose Your Publishing Software



PUBLISHING SOFTWARE

To create a self-published book, you'll need software to layout your pages with pictures and text. You will then export your layout to a PDF file.

My recommendation is Comic Life from Plasq. It is inexpensive, easy to use, and very powerful. I use it to publish my children's books.

There is a free 30-day trial.



The examples in this book are created with Comic Life.

FYI:

There are lots of software programs that create PDF files. Microsoft Word and other word processing programs can export in PDF. But, I don't recommend that you use word processing programs. Formatting and layout are much easier with a desktop publishing program.

Common Desktop publishing software includes Microsoft Publisher, Adobe InDesign, Affinity Publisher, QuarkXPress. These are all great publishing programs, but they can be complicated to learn.

If you already have a desktop publishing program that you like, you should use it.

TIP:

If you have good computer skills and want a robust program at a budget price, I recommend Affinity Publisher from Serif Software.

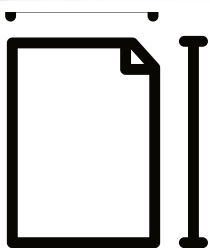
Photo-editing software can also come in handy. Affinity Photo is a good, inexpensive choice. affinity.serif.com

LINKS:

ComicLife from Plasq.com

Affinity Publisher from Serif Software. affinity.serif.com

Decide on the Paper Size



The first thing you need to do is decide what trim size your print book will be. *Remember: The trim size is the final size of your book.*

You'll learn a quick way to turn your print book into an eBook. How the eBook will look depends on the trim size of the print book.



KINDLE HD BOOK PAGE



8 x 10 PRINT BOOK PAGE

Note that the top and bottom borders around the Kindle page are gray to show how the image fits onto the Kindle. They would be black in the actual conversion to make them less noticeable.

CREATING AN EBOOK AND A PRINT BOOK FROM THE SAME LAYOUT

Using the same PDF layout to create your eBook and print book will save you a lot of time. But there are some drawbacks to using this method, because the aspect ratio between a Kindle Fire HD and a print book is different.

Your eBook will have some black bars at the top and bottom of the pages. The Comic book mode will help create a good reading experience, But it's not perfect.

Before you start creating your book, you must decide on the size of your print book (the trim size).

In the current market, you will sell more print books than ebooks. So you should focus on making a great-looking print book.

The chart below shows the different trim sizes that both Kindle and IngramSpark print.

At the top, you can see that a 5" X 8" print book is the same aspect ratio as Kindle Fire HD. If you chose this size, your book would look the same in print and as an eBook. However, 5" X 8" print books don't leave much room on the page for illustrations and are more for early readers that picture books.

At the bottom is 8.5" X 8.5". This (in my opinion) is an ideal picture book size.

A good compromise between print and eBook is 8"X10".

PORTRAIT MODE	TRIM SIZE	ASPECT RATIO
"Perfect Fit" for Kindle Fire HD	5" x 8" (12.7 x 20.32 cm)	1.6
	Kindle Fire HD	1.6
	5.5" x 8.5" (13.97 x 21.59 cm)	1.55
	5.06" x 7.81" (12.85 x 19.84 cm)	1.55
	5.25" x 8" (13.34 x 20.32 cm)	1.53
	6" x 9" (15.24 x 22.86 cm)	1.5
	6.14" x 9.21" (15.6 x 23.39 cm)	1.5
	6.69" x 9.61" (16.99 x 24.41 cm)	1.44
	7" x 10" x (17.78 x 25.4 cm)	1.43
	8.27" x 11.69" (21 x 29.7 cm)	1.42
	7.44" x 9.69" (18.9 x 24.61 cm)	1.31
	8.5" x 11" (21.59 x 27.94 cm)	1.3
Good Compromise	8" x 10" (20.32 x 25.4 cm)	1.25
	7.5" x 9.25" (19.05 x 23.5 cm)	1.24
"Ideal" Children's Book Print Size	8.5" x 8.5" (21.59 x 21.59 cm)	1



5 x 8 CONVERT



8.5 x 8.5 CONVERT



8 x 10 CONVERT

The other drawback of using one PDF is that the Comic Book layout is only available on Kindle.

- Although, you can export your Comic life layout to other formats. Exporting your eBook to other eBook publishing platforms like iBooks, Kobo, and Barnes and Noble is outside the scope of this book.

YOU CAN CREATE TWO SEPARATE VERSIONS

You can create two separate layouts to get a print and an eBook version. You would make a copy of the Comic Life file and reformat it for the eBook version.

I suggest converting your print book to a Kindle eBook with Kindle Create Comic layout and publish it. If you don't like the results, you can always create a separate eBook version and publish that.

PAGE COUNT

As a self-publisher, you have complete control over the content of your books. You can choose any number of pages for your print book and eBook.

However, it's a good idea to stick with industry-standard conventions.

Your book should include a Title page, a dedication/copyright page.

The standard page count for a traditionally published picture book is 32 Pages. Although they may be 24, 32, 40, or 48 pages. This is because of the way they are produced.

WHY STICK WITH INDUSTRY-STANDARD PAGE COUNTS?

You never know what the future holds for your children's book. If it is published by a traditional publisher, or you decide to use an offset printing house to fulfill a big order, you won't have to reformat it to fit a standard page count.

TIP:

Some things to keep in mind about spreading images across pages.

For your first book, avoid spreading image across two pages. Getting the images to match up in the center of the book (the gutter) can be difficult.

Also, you won't be able to spread the image across pages in your eBook. If you decide to manually make an eBook major layout changes will be required.

Book Dummy for 24 Page Picture Book

BLANK (Inside Cover) No printing allowed	TITLE PAGE Title Picture Author Name	COPYRIGHT Dedication Copyright Legal Info	PAGE 3 Your Story Starts Here.
PAGE 4 Story Continues....	PAGE 5	PAGE 6	PAGE 7
PAGE 8	PAGE 9	PAGE 10	PAGE 11
PAGE 12	PAGE 13	PAGE 14	PAGE 15
PAGE 16	PAGE 17	PAGE 18	PAGE 19
PAGE 20	PAGE 21	PAGE 22	PAGE 23
PAGE 24 Last Page of Your Story.	BLANK (Inside Back Cover) No printing allowed	Note: Most Traditionally Published Picture Books are 32 Pages. Just add the extra pages to your picture book dummy.	

Create a Picture Book Dummy

A picture book dummy is a rough layout of your story in picture book format.

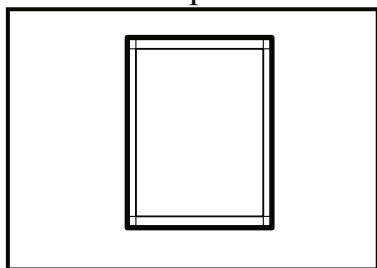
BUILDING YOUR BOOK

You're going to create your picture book dummy. Then you will rework and revise your picture book dummy into a finished picture book.

HOW TO MAKE A PICTURE BOOK DUMMY WITH COMIC LIFE.



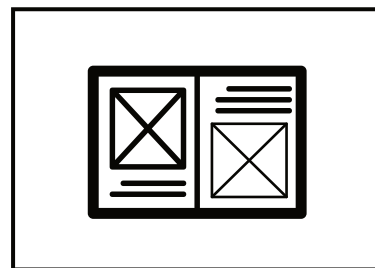
Create the Layout
Template



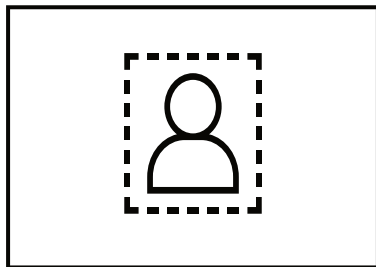
Title pages and
copyright pages



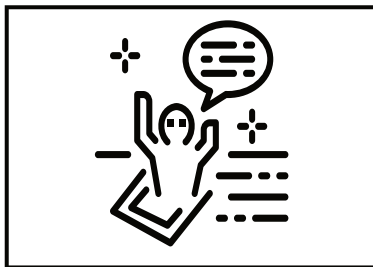
Place Your Text



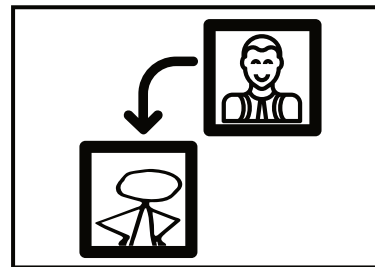
Placeholder art. Art
Notes.



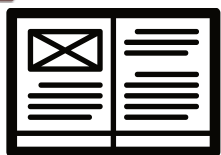
Think and write
visually



Replace the
Placeholders with the
Final Art



Create the Layout Template



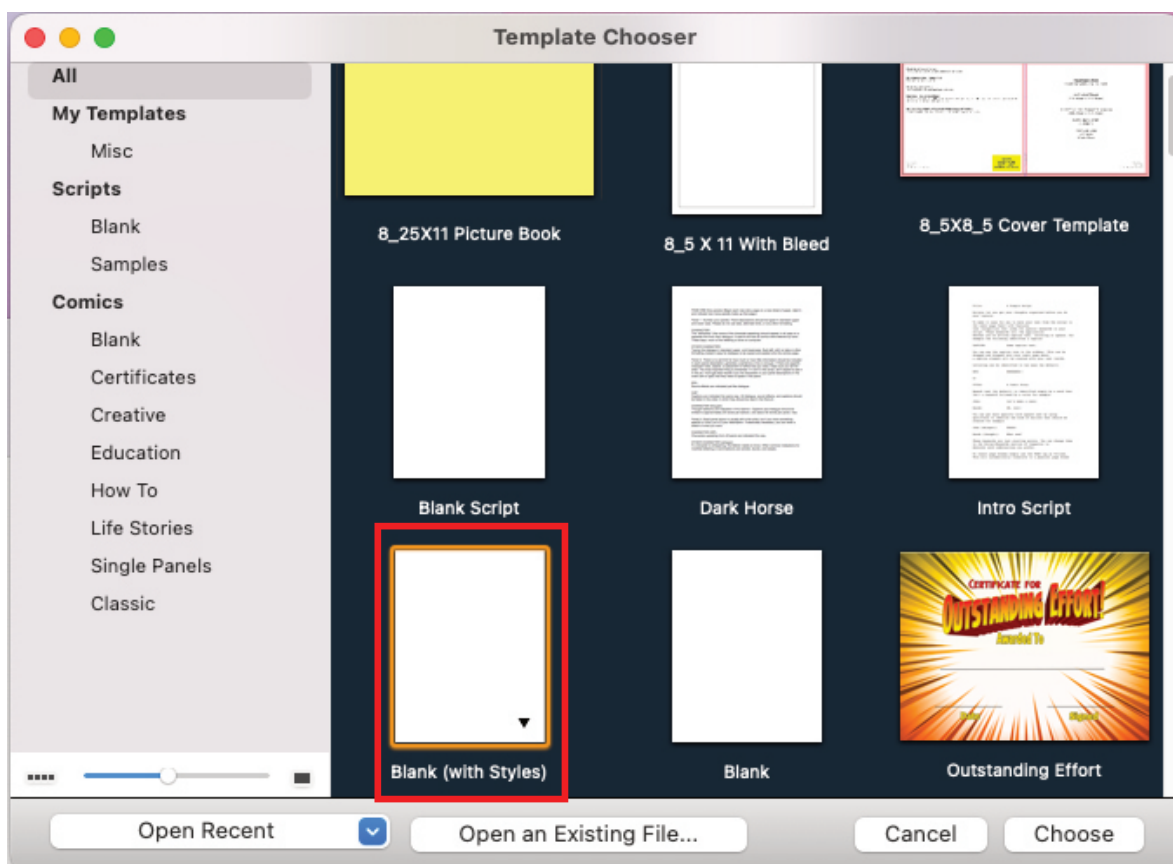
You need to create a template, in Comic Life, for your picture book.

HOW TO CREATE THE SAFE ZONE FOR YOUR TEXT AND IMAGES

LET'S GET STARTED

We'll use a trick to set the Alignment Guides to your safe zone.

1. Start Comic Life



2. Select Blank (with Styles)

3. Click Choose

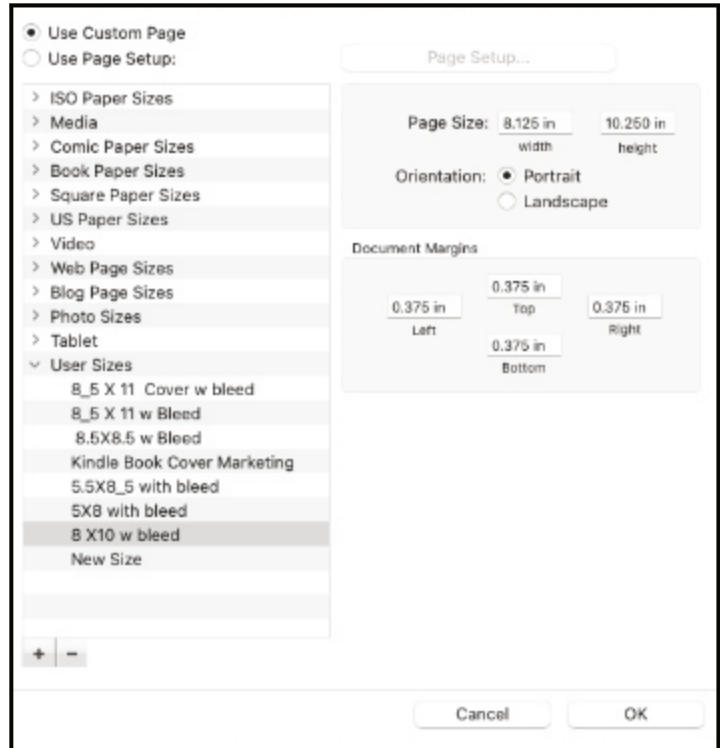
4. Go to Main Menu → File → Page Setup
5. Set the page size. Be sure to add the extra .125 inches to the width and .250 inches to the height for the bleed.

Example: 8X10 book

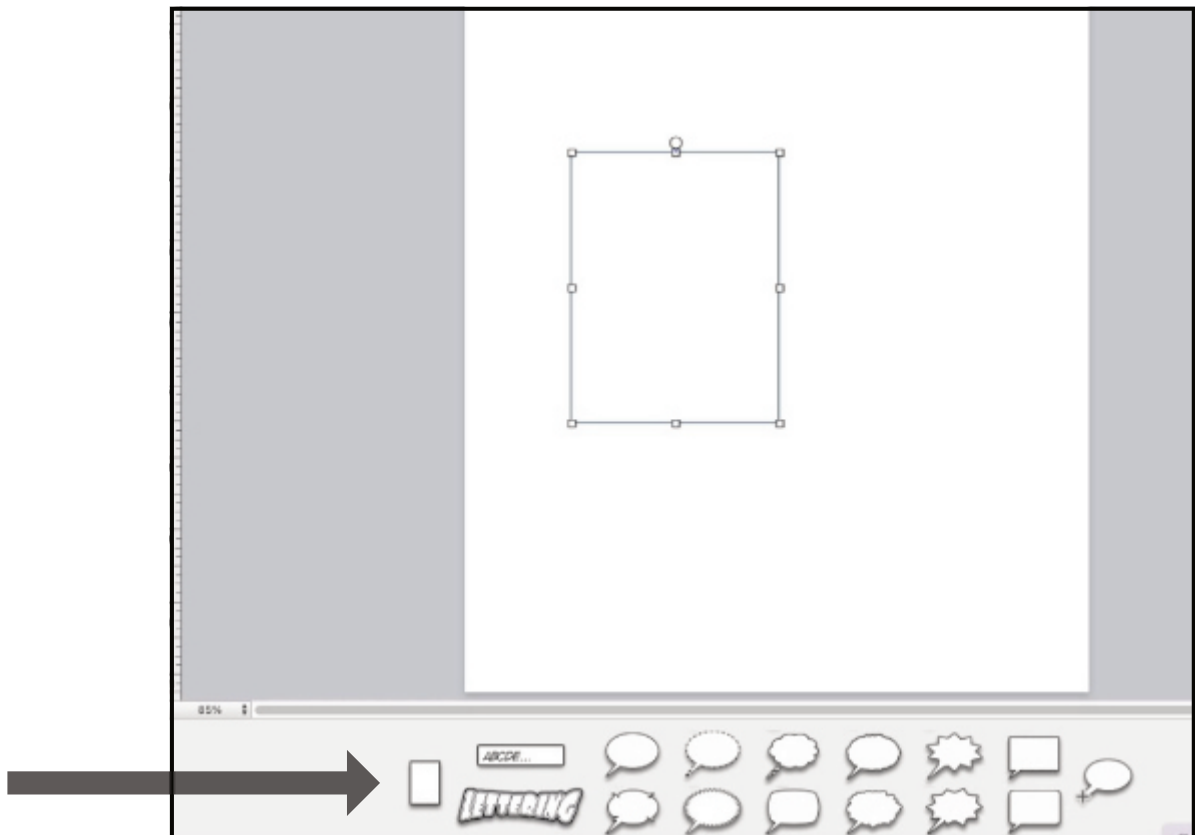
Width: 8.125 X Height: 10.250

5. Set the margins to .375

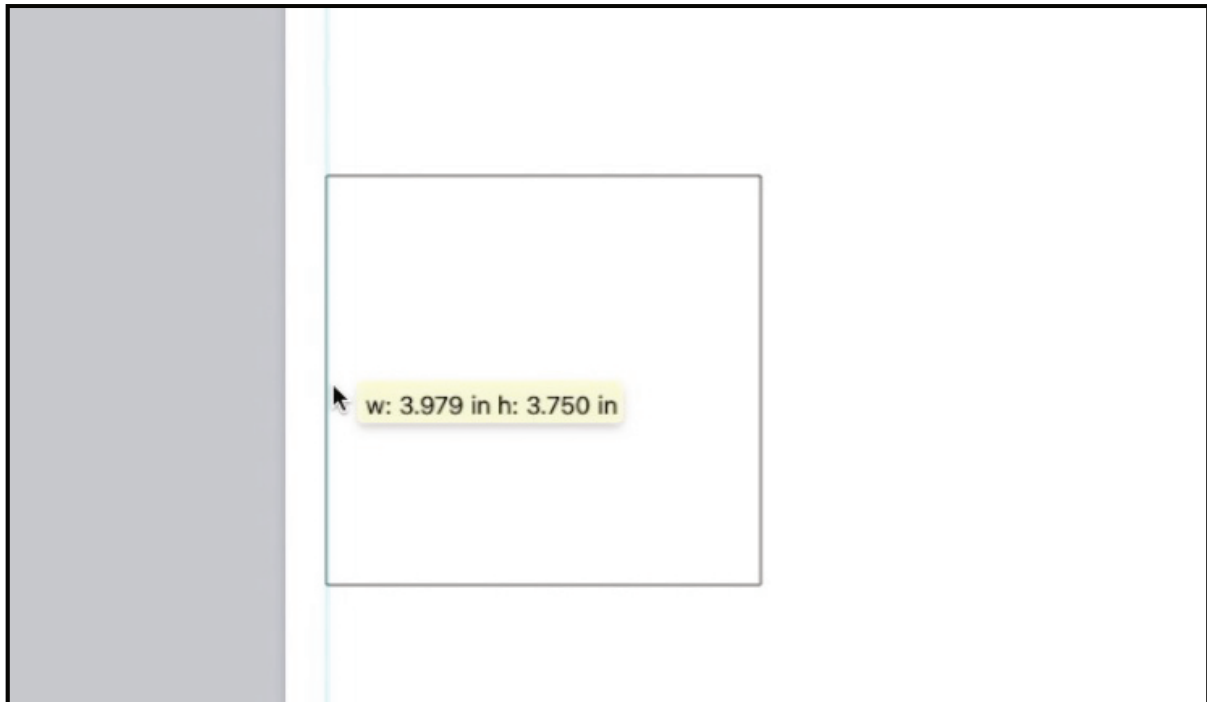
Note - ONLY for books over 150 pages. Setting the margins (Safe Zone) to .375 works because the margins are the same size on both sides of the page. The gutter (inner margin) increases as the page count increases. Use Affinity Publisher for books over 150 pages.



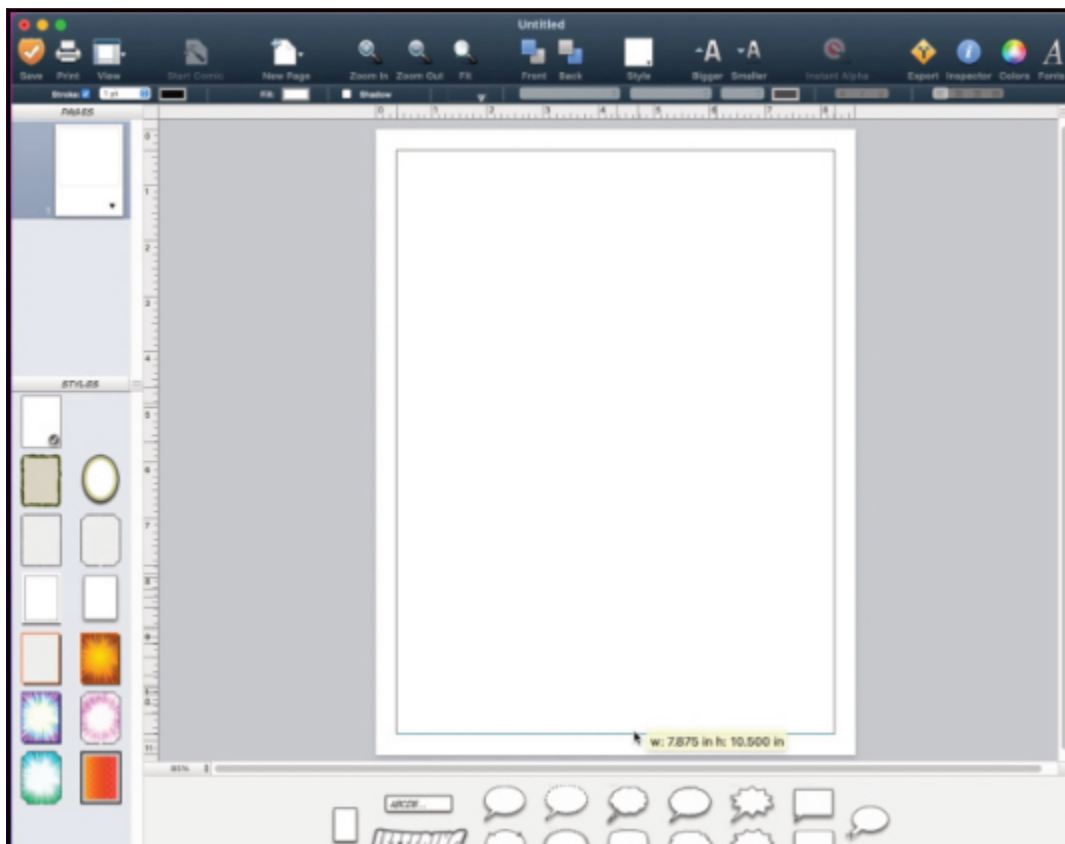
6. Click OK



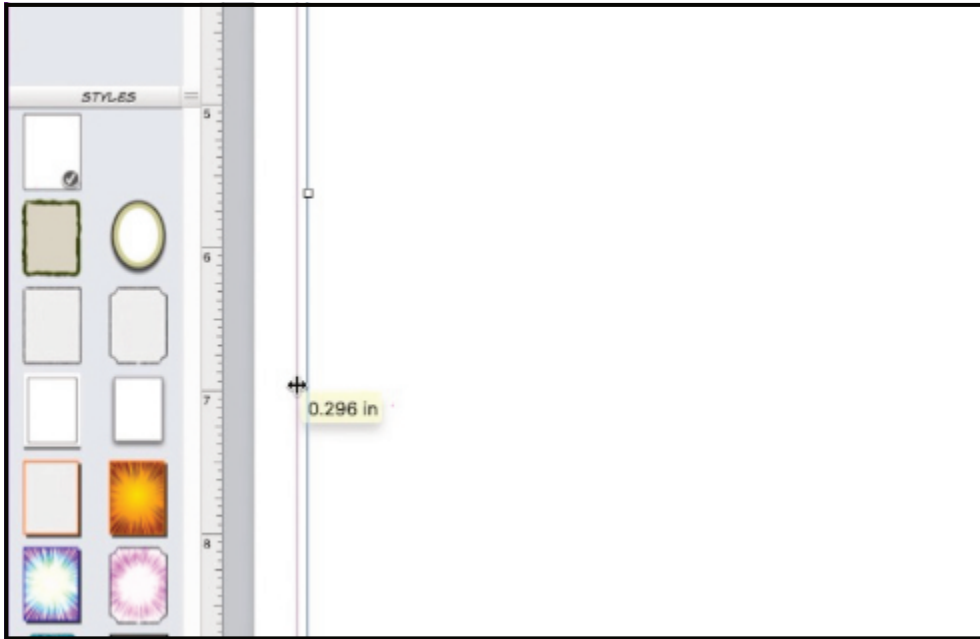
7. Drop a Panel on the page



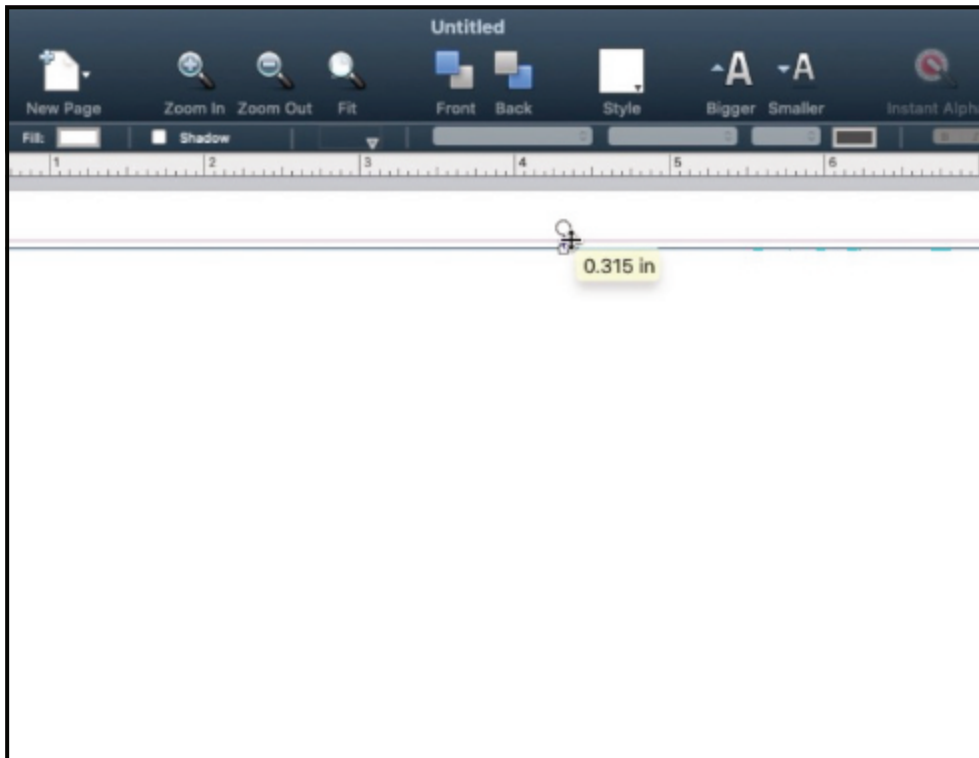
8. Drag the sides of the panel to the margins on the page. The margins will appear as a blue line when the edge of the panel gets close. The panel edge will snap to the margin.



9. When you are finished, you will have a big panel that fills the center of the page.
10. Zoom into the page. You will be placing the alignment guides on the panel edges, so you want to get a close-up view of each panel edge.

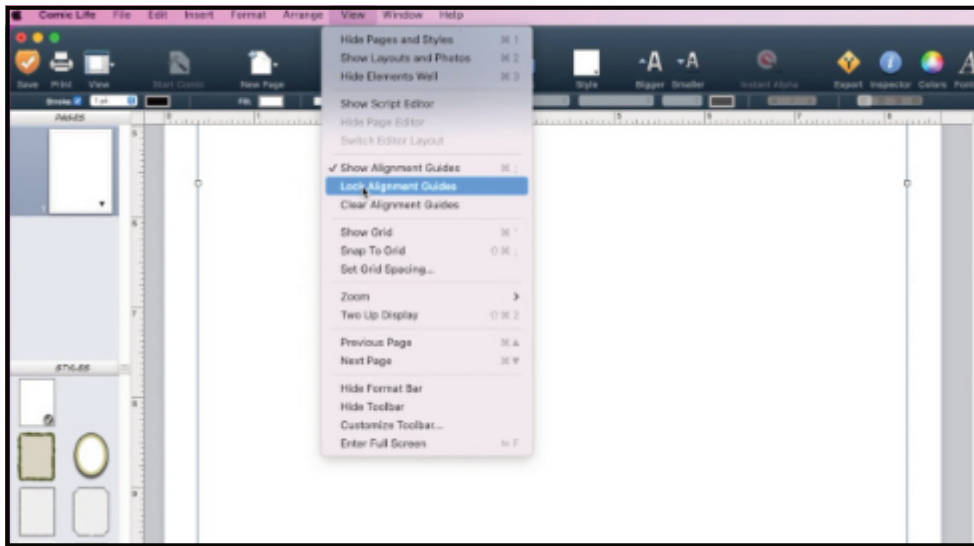


11. Set the window so you can see the left side of the panel.
12. Put your mouse cursor on the Ruler on the Left side. Click and drag the line that appears on the Left Panel Edge.

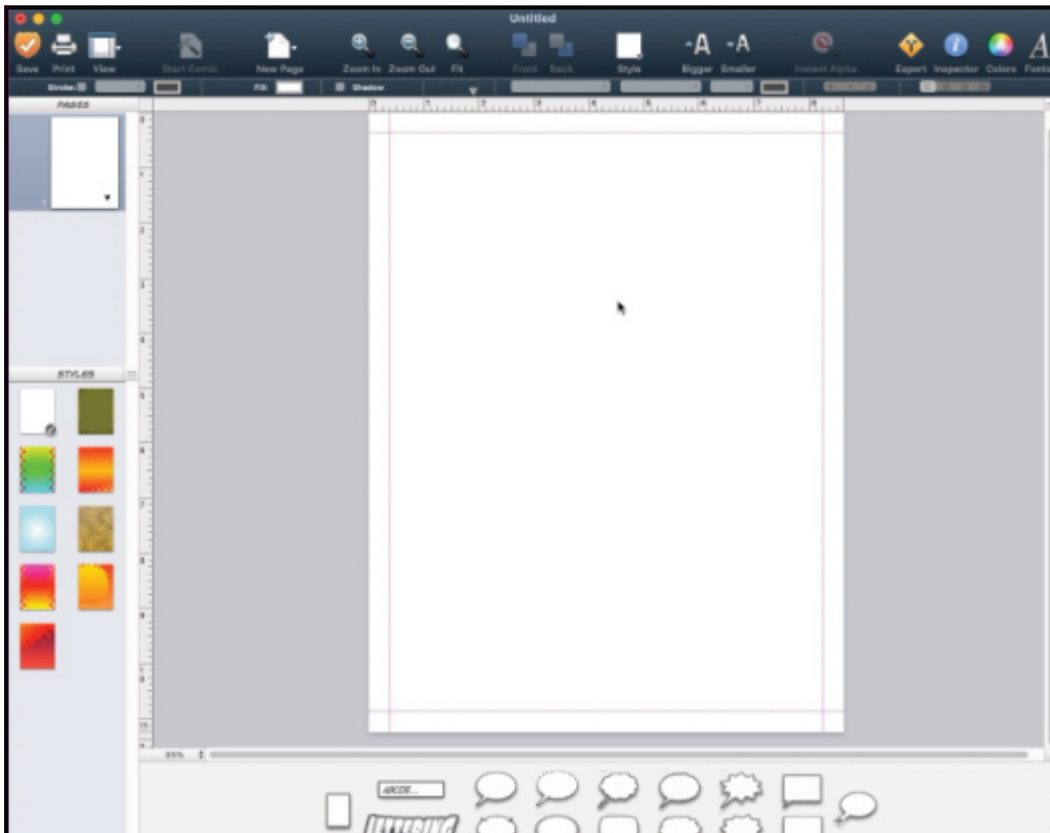


Create the Layout Template

- Repeat step 7 for the other three edges. For the top and bottom edges, you will drag from the ruler at the top of the screen.



- From the Top Menu. Select View → Lock Alignment Guides.



- Delete the Panel.
- Save the Page as a Comic Life Template. File → Save as Template
Ensure that all of your text and images are placed inside the alignment guides. Items placed outside the safe zone might be trimmed when the book is created.
You can cover the entire page with an illustration or color.

Setting Up Comic Life Packages

THE FIRST THING IS TO CHANGE A SETTING IN COMICLIFE

ComicLife has two different ways that it handles pictures that are placed TK.

The default setting is to **link** the image to the picture file. You can think of this as having a bunch of picture frames. Instead of the picture being stored in the frame. There is a note with the location of the picture in your house. So when you want to see the picture, you know where to find it and place it in the frame. This method works great, unless you move the picture and don't update the note. In computer terms: the picture file gets moved to another folder on your computer and Comic life can't find it.

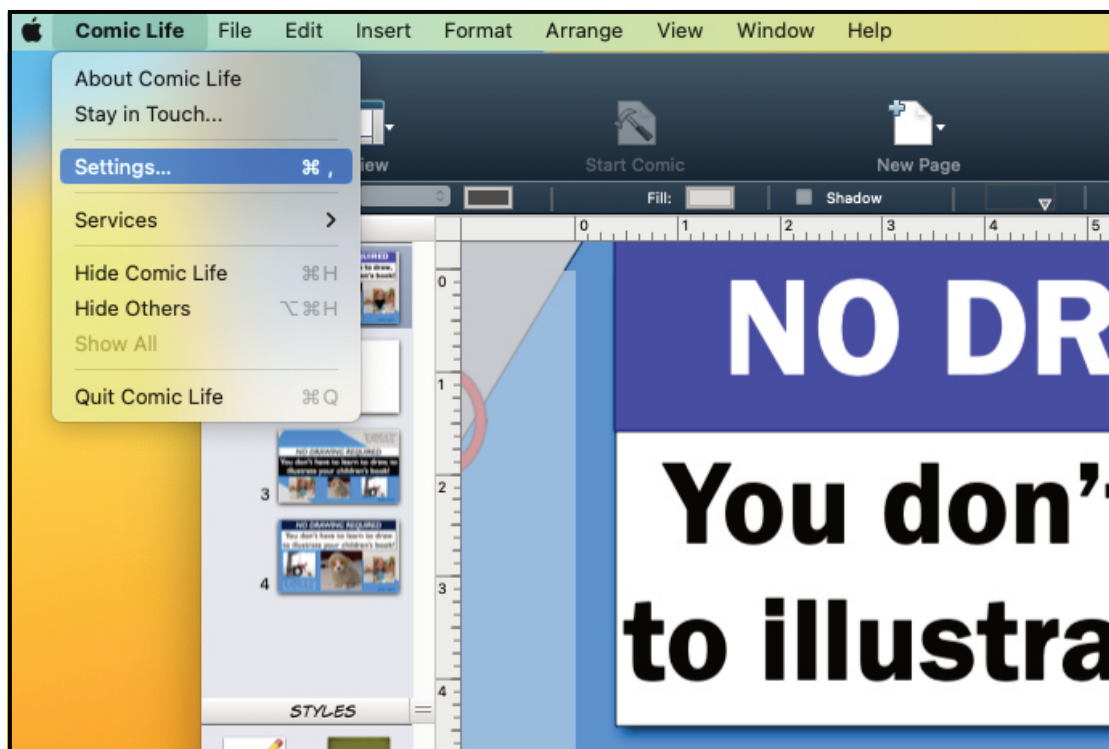
The other method is to **embed** the pictures in the Comic Life project file. You can think of this as the pictures being kept in their frames. This does increase the size of the Comic Life file., But that shouldn't be a problem. Comic Life calls embedding files "Saving as a Package"

You just need to turn this setting on in the preferences. You should only have to do this once.

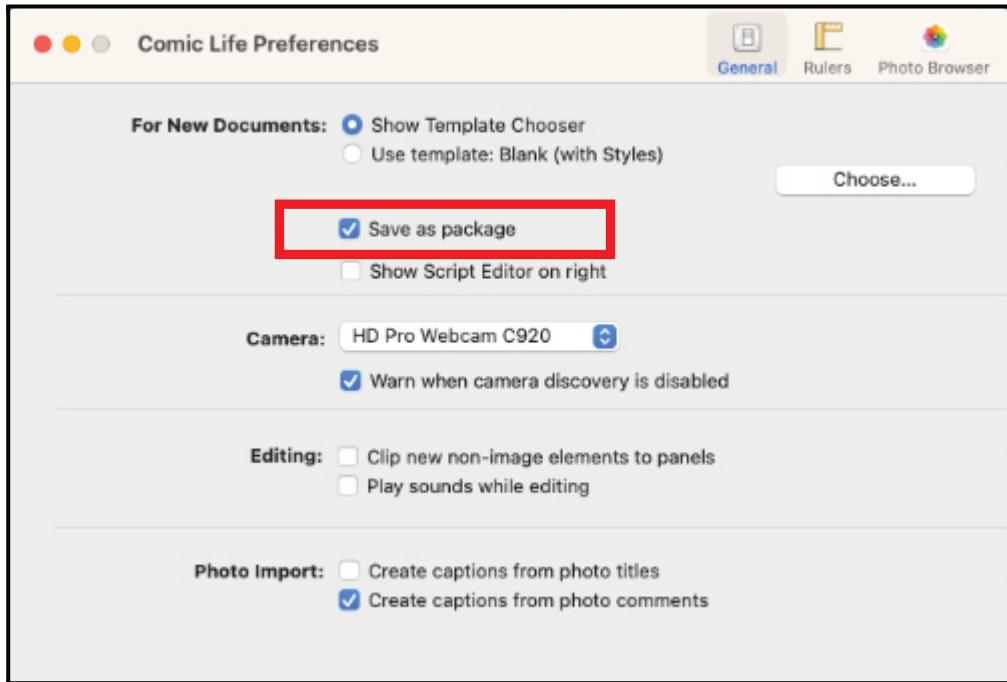
SET COMIC LIFE TO SAVE IMAGES INSIDE PROJECT FILES

Do the following steps:

1. Go to the Main Menu
2. Click on Comic Life → Settings



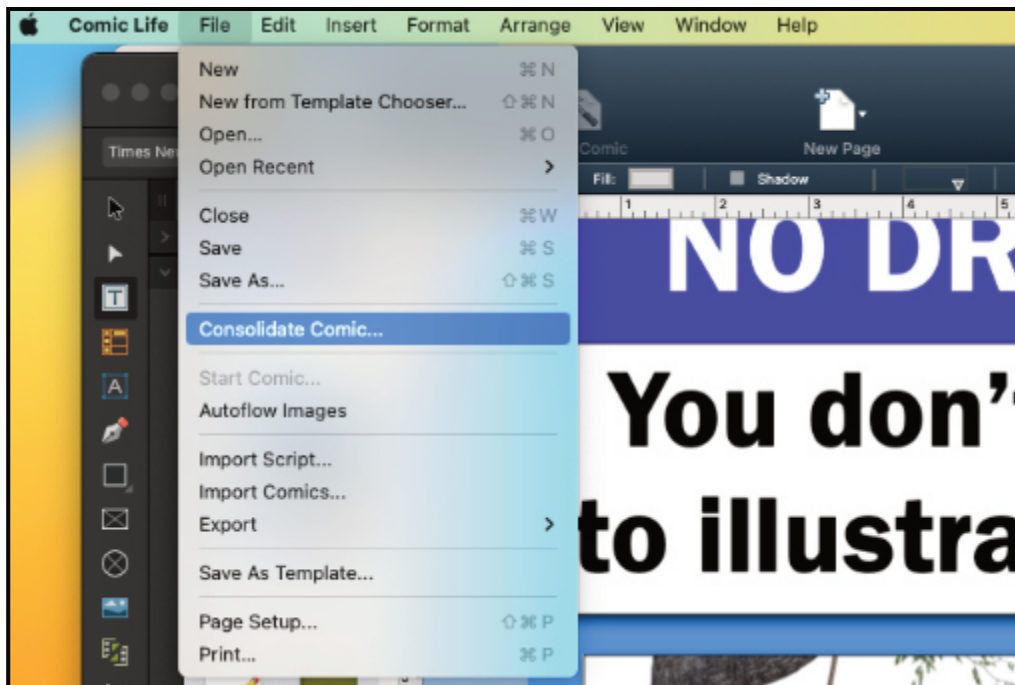
3. Check the Save as Package checkbox.
4. Press the red button in the upper left corner to close the “Comic Life Preferences” popup.



EMBEDDING IMAGES IN AN EXISTING PROJECT

If you start a Comic Life project file and don't have the Save as package checkbox set, you can copy all the picture files into your Comic Life project file.

1. Goto Main Menu → File → Consolidate Comic
2. Then Set the Save as package checkbox in the Setting.



Building Your Book

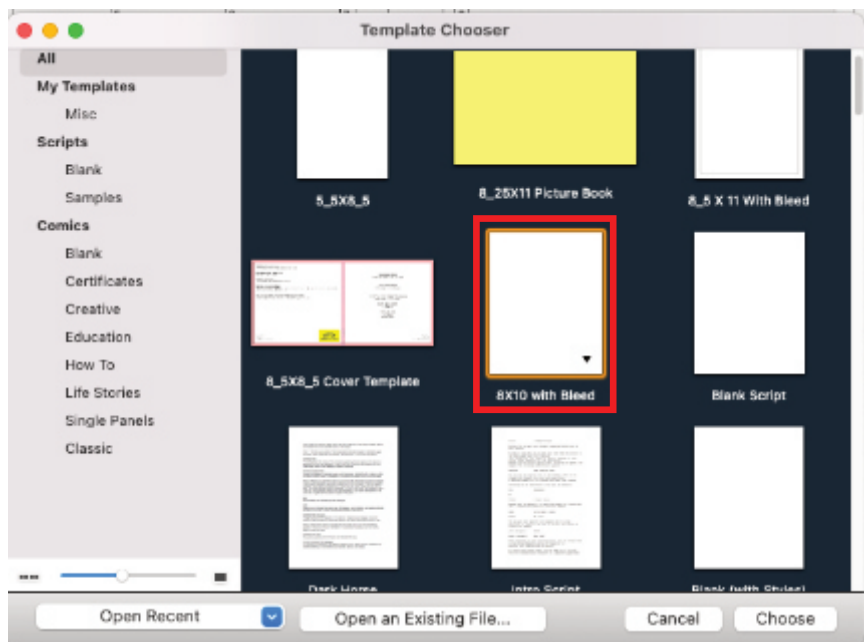
USE YOUR PUBLISHING SOFTWARE TO BUILD YOUR BOOK.

Use your Desktop Publishing Software to layout your picture book dummy. The following example shows how to layout your ebook with Comic Life. The steps will be similar, if you use other publishing software to layout your book.

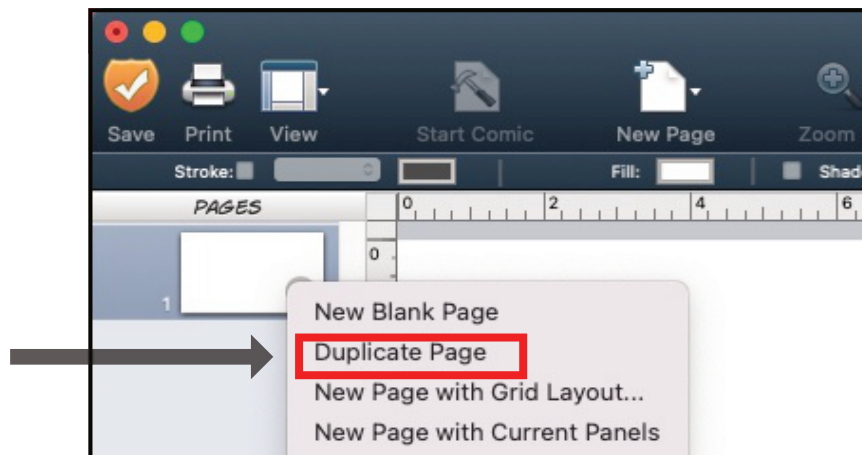
FYI: You need to play around with Comic Life to learn how to use the controls.

EXAMPLE: CREATE YOUR PICTURE BOOK DUMMY IN COMIC LIFE

1. Start Comic Life
2. Create a New Project by selecting the template you created. OR Load the template file you created.



3. Duplicate the page to create 32 New Blank Pages (24 if it's a short book)
4. Create Your Title Page and Copyright Pages on Page One and Two.

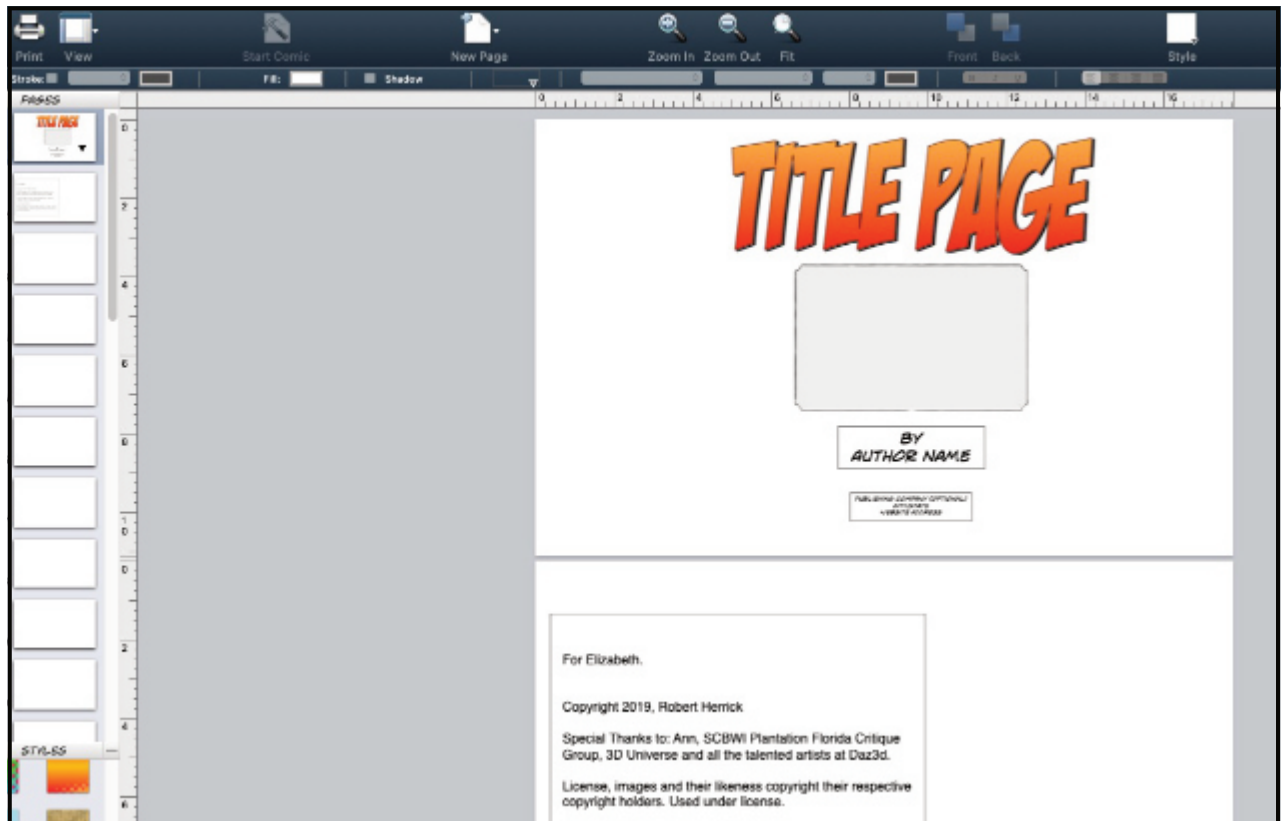


NOTE: The example is an eBook format. The principles for laying out a print book are the same. The only difference is that the graphics you don't want to be clipped must be in the Safe Zone.



TITLE PAGES AND COPYRIGHT PAGES

5. Take your script and break it into lines and small paragraphs that you think should go on a page.



6. Copy the lines and paste them onto the pages in your book. Don't worry if you have too many or too few to fill the book. You can always add additional pages.

SCRIPT EXAMPLE

Walter The Worried School Bus
By Robert Herrick

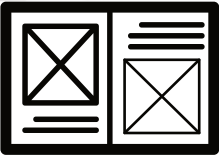
Early in the morning, Mr. Turner and Walter, the school bus, started their day.

At the bus stop, Billy, Taylor, Darcy and George got on.

But Julie wasn't there.

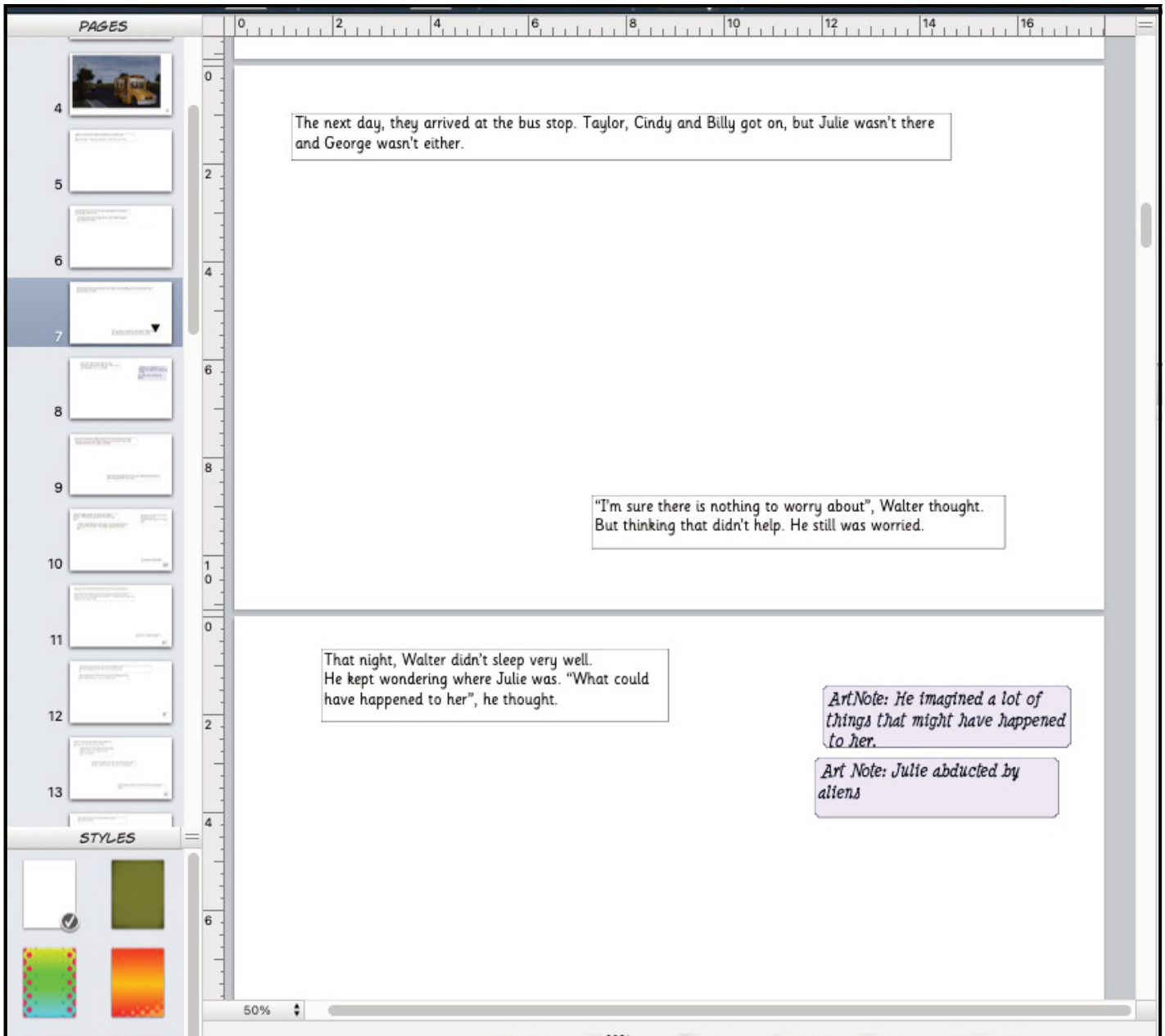
Walter liked Julie ever since she stopped Billy from putting gum under his seat.

"I hope she isn't sick," he thought as they drove to school.



PLACE YOUR TEXT

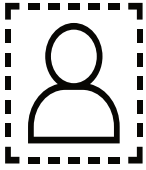
7. Place the text on the page. Put a panel as a placeholder for the artwork and/or write art notes about the artwork for the page.



TIP: Art Notes - Visualize the page. Write a brief description of the picture(s) you want on the page.

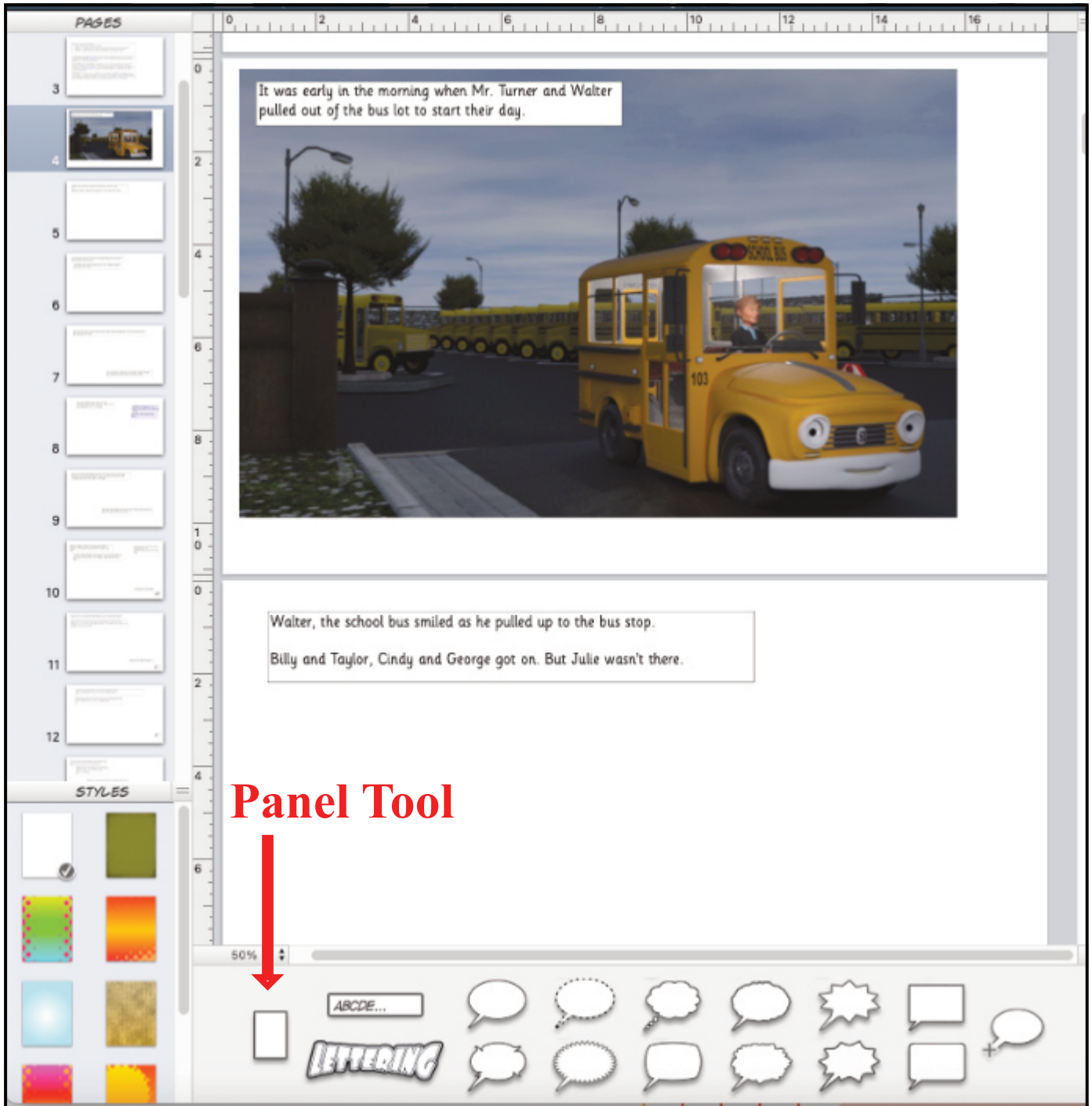
TIP: Avoid spreading the image across the page.

- It will increase the chance of misaligned images.
- You won't be able to spread the image across pages in your eBook. Significant layout changes in the eBook will be required.



PLACEHOLDER ART. ART NOTES.

8. Rework your text and picture layout until you are happy with the design.



If possible, get your book to 32 pages.

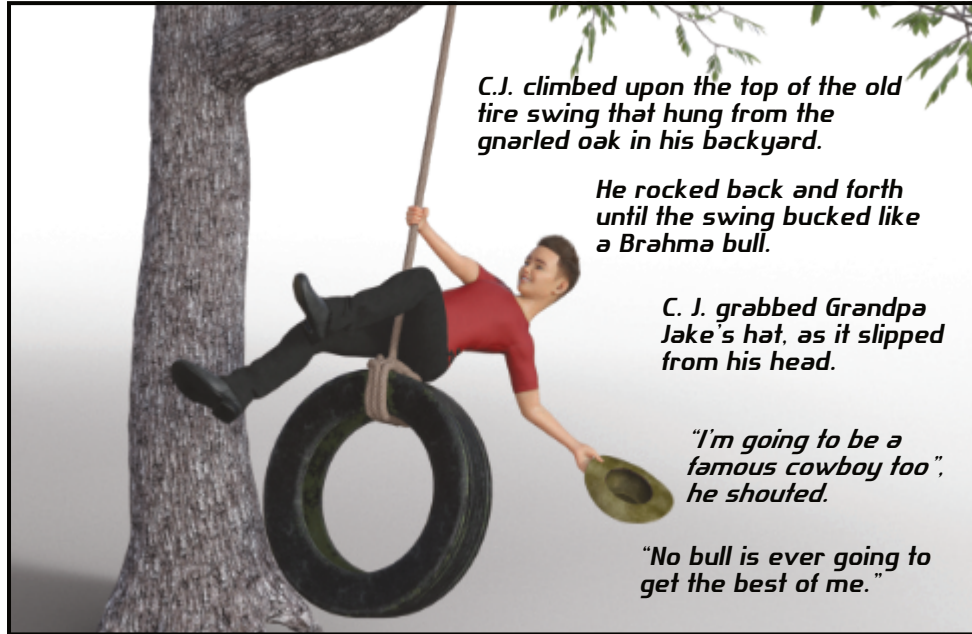
TIP: If you need to add a page and you don't want to create extra text/ You can add a "this book belongs to _____" page at the front of the book after the title page.



THINK AND WRITE VISUALLY

As you are laying out your book, look at your text. Are there parts that you can express in your drawing?

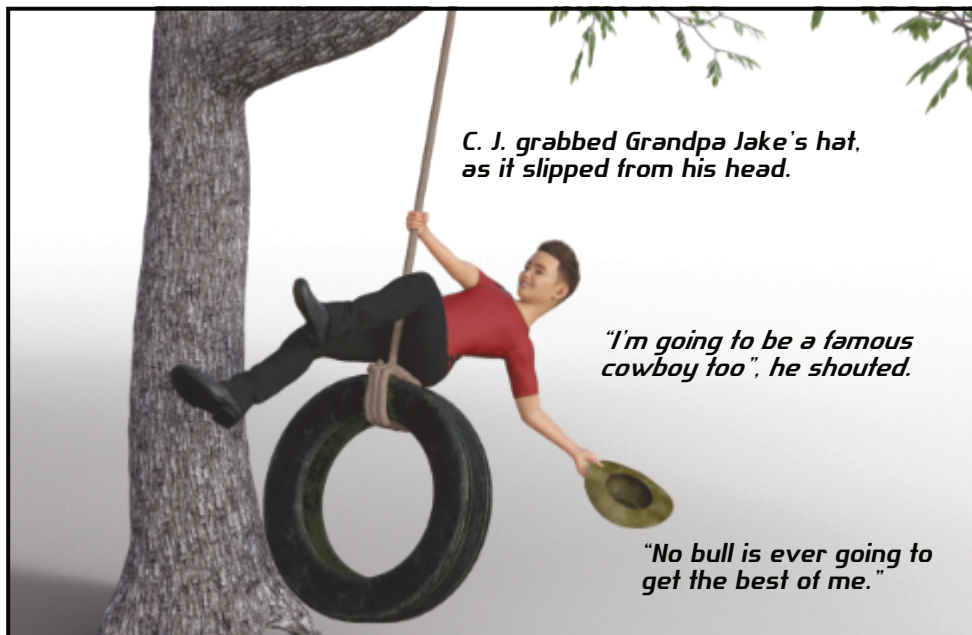
The first illustration has a lot of descriptions that sets the scene. That's a lot of text to put on a picture book page.



ARTWORK IS 50% OF YOUR BOOK.

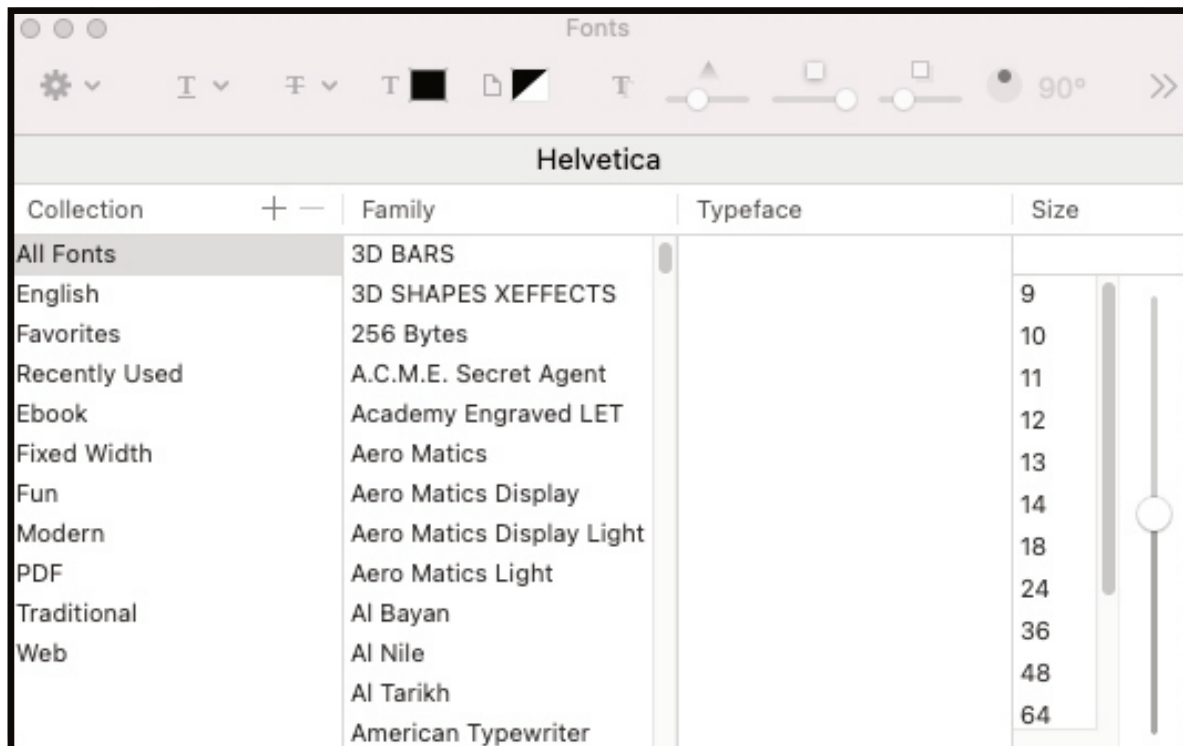
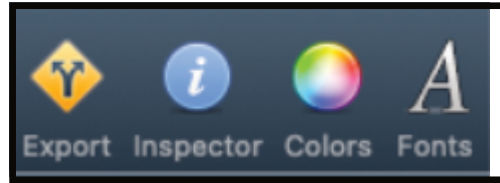
The first two lines describe what is happening in the picture. By eliminating them, you improve the layout and story flow.

Unless it is essential to understanding the story, describing what is happening in the illustration is like writing the same sentence twice. Same sentence twice.



PICKING A FONT

Pick a font that's easy for young children to read. You can always add a font to your computer. These fonts are found in the Fonts Panel.



LINKS:

The Best Free Fonts for Children's Books - <https://www.indesignskills.com/inspiration/free-fonts-childrens-books/>

Google - "How to install a font"

Now it's time to create the final artwork

Artwork

There is no such thing as the right way to illustrate a children's book. Go to the bookstore, a library, or check out the eBook previews on Amazon. You will see everything from the line drawings of Jeff Kinney's "Wimpy Kid" books to the detailed color illustrations of Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are."

As I said before, your story and your characters are what matter. The best illustrator won't make a poorly written story better. But, amateur illustrations and poor book design detract from a good story.

They say that you can't judge a book by its cover. But the fact is, you can. Your book cover is the first thing a buyer sees. If the cover illustration does not tempt them to give your book a closer look, you've lost that sale.

You aren't striving for perfection; your goal is to grab the buyer's attention. So put your best efforts into your creation.

IF YOU ARE A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

That's awesome. You're one step ahead of the rest of us.

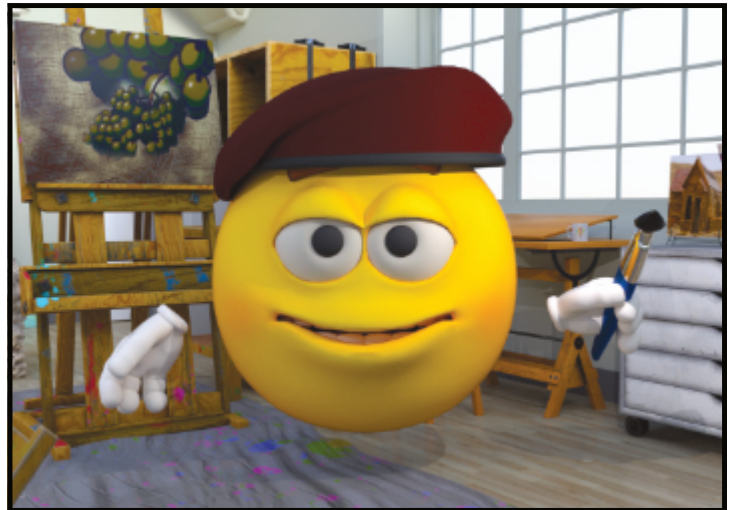
Keep reading to see how you can speed up your workflow.

HIRING AN ILLUSTRATOR

Before you jump into creating artwork for your book, let's look at another option, hiring an artist to do it for you.

The easiest way to illustrate your children's book is to have someone else do the work. Unfortunately, it is also the most expensive option.

A talented illustrator isn't going to illustrate your book for a percentage of the profits. Why? Because most books don't make a profit.



Illustrators need to make a living wage. A quick search of the US Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that the median wage for illustrators is \$50,000 per year. Think of it this way, if it is going to take four months to illustrate your book. Then you are going to pay them four months' salary - \$17,700. (This is just an example, illustrators' rates vary greatly.)

You might be able to find an inexpensive illustrator on the internet. As a general rule, you get what you pay for. Buyer beware.

If you decide to hire an illustrator, make sure you have a contract before any work is started. The contract should include: who owns the art, rate, the cost for changes, payment schedules, delivery dates, royalties you owe, etc. This is a big investment and will affect how you can sell or market your book. The best advice, consult a lawyer.

TIPS FOR CREATING ILLUSTRATIONS THAT HELP TELL YOUR STORY



- Let your visuals tell 50% of the story.
- Scenes should be physical - Something is happening that you can see.
- No need to draw art you aren't going to use.
- Layout the book first. You should have a good idea of what picture goes on every page.
- Capture emotion. Pay close attention to the character's expression and body language.
- Eliminate the scenes that don't move your story forward.
- You don't need to show every action or detail.
- Less is more. You don't have to fill the page with unnecessary characters, objects, or background images.
- If a scene takes place in one location. You can do an establishing shot, then focus on just the characters and their actions in the following pages.
- Don't be afraid to use spot illustrations on some pages.

TERMS:

Spot illustration - just the character or object with no background.

Establishing shot - a wide shot that shows the location and the characters. This technique is commonly used in television and films. It establishes in the reader's mind where things are at in the scene.

What do you do if you're not an illustrator and you don't want to hire one?

You have two options.

1. Spend 10,000 hours learning to become a professional artist.
2. Spend a few hours with No Drawing Required and learn how to create your own illustrations without learning how to draw!

CREATE YOUR OWN ILLUSTRATIONS WITHOUT LEARNING HOW TO DRAW

It's true! You don't have to learn to draw to illustrate your children's book. With Daz Studio, your computer can draw the illustrations for you.

Daz Studio uses the same character technology as computer-animated movies.



With Daz Studio, you use 3D characters and sets to quickly create a 3D scene. Then the 3D scene is converted into a 2D image, ready to be used in your books.

You don't create the characters and settings. Talented artists have already created them.



Daz Studio is not a drawing or painting program. You pose and direct the characters; you don't draw them.

Best of all, Daz Studio software is free. The costs involved are in purchasing the 3D characters and sets. These are reasonably priced and can be reused throughout your books.

Using Daz Studio can save you thousands of dollars.

I wrote “No Drawing Required” to help you learn Daz Studio. . It is written specifically for children’s book authors and is filled with tips and techniques to save you time and money.

Daz Studio isn’t complicated, but there are some concepts and processes you’ll need to learn. We’ll take baby steps through these with easy-to-follow walkthroughs.

You might even make money creating illustrations for other authors.

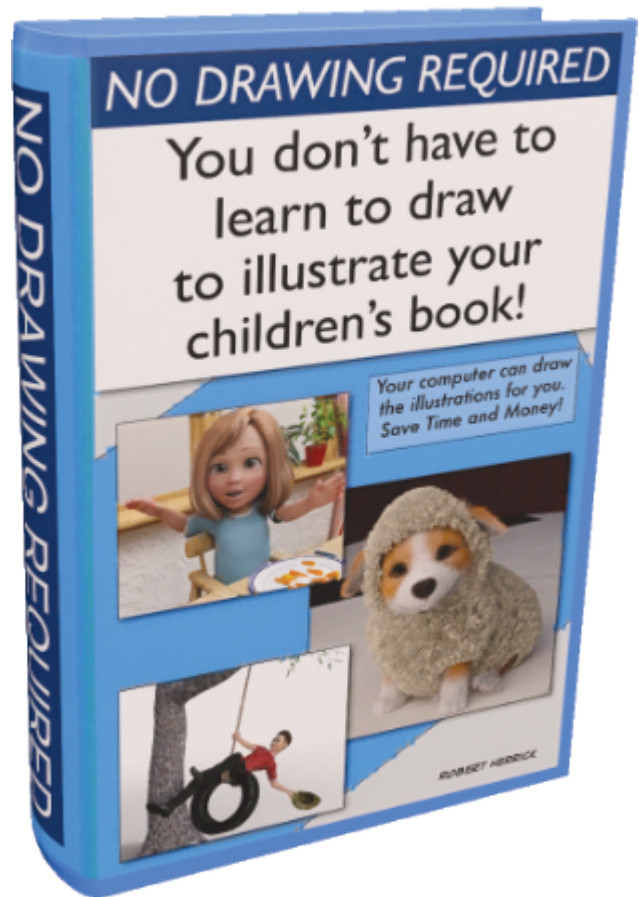
Every day you wait is another day that your book could be making you money.

YOU DON’T HAVE ANYTHING TO LOSE.

Before you hire an illustrator, watch the *Ten easy steps to create artwork for your children’s book* video at NoDrawingRequired.com



Since Daz Studio software is free and you’ve already read this far, check out Daz Studio and No Drawing Required. If you don’t get the desired results, then you can hire an illustrator.



ADVANTAGES OF CREATING YOUR ARTWORK WITH DAZ STUDIO

- Fast - Produce a finished illustration in hours
- NO art skill is required to create professional artwork.
- Daz Studio is free.
- Control your costs.
 - Estimate your art costs before you spend any money.
- Reuse 3D models in other books.
 - Once you pay for a 3D model, you can use it in as many illustrations as you want.
- Fun. Watch as your illustrations appear at the push of a button.
- Easy to learn.
 - With *No Drawing Required*, learning to illustrate your children's books won't take long.
 - Confident building, Baby steps approach.
- You're in charge.
 - You understand your book better than anyone else. You aren't at the mercy of someone else to create the illustrations.



LINKS:

Hire An Illustrator

SCBWI Illustrator Gallery - <https://www.scbwi.org/illustrator-gallery/>

UpWork: <https://www.upwork.com/hire/illustrators/landing/>

Hireillo : <https://www.hireanillustrator.com/>

Do It Yourself (and save \$\$\$)

No Drawing Required: NoDrawingRequired.com

IF YOU ARE A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

Check out *No Drawing Required*. Daz Studio can create reference material for your artwork without hiring models. You can pose and light the virtual characters. Easily solves perspective problems. Daz Studio also simulates wind and fabric folds. Save time and effort by previsualizing your characters.

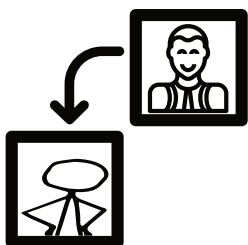
PREVISUALIZE YOUR CHARACTERS TO CREATE ART REFERENCES.

Here are examples of the same figure in two different poses. The hair and dress had a soft materials simulation run on them. Simulating how the hair and cloth would lay in the scene.

Different lighting effects have been applied to some of the models.

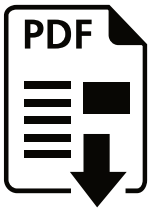


Place Your Artwork



Replace the art notes and placeholder art with final artwork.

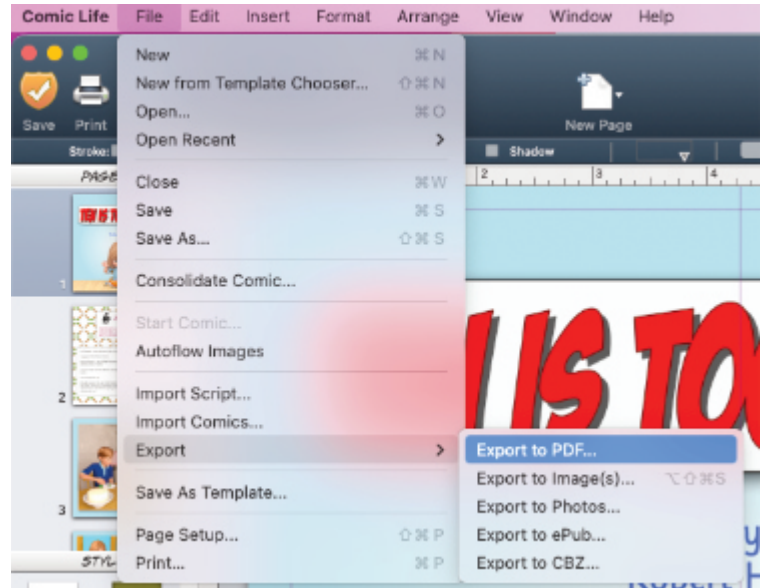




EXPORT YOUR PDF

Once you have your book laid out the way you want, you need to export the PDF to be uploaded to Kindle.

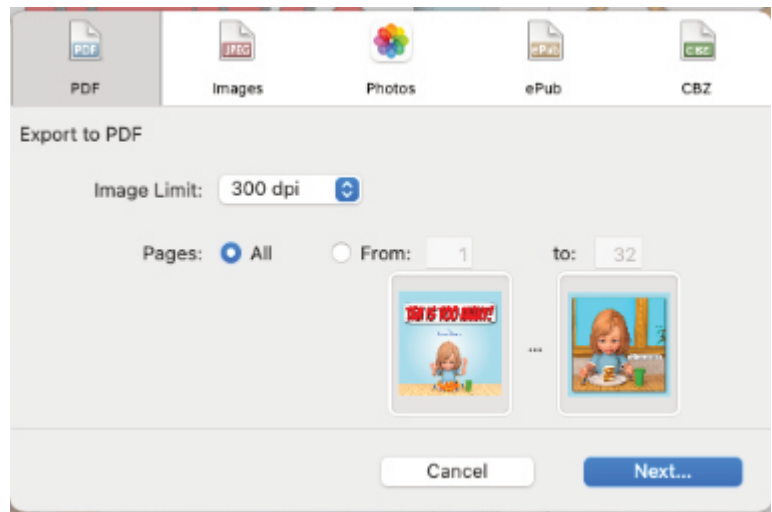
1. Main Menu → File → Export → Export to PDF...



2. Set Image Limit to 300 dpi.

3. Pages: All

4. Click Next....



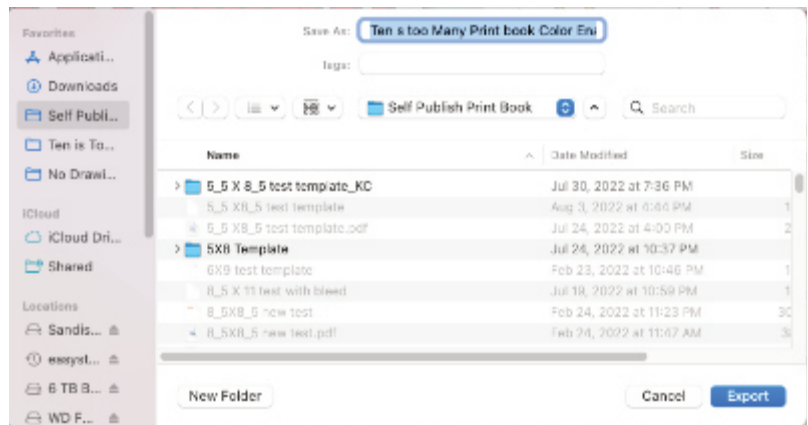
5. Name your PDF.

6. Select a folder to save your PDF.

7. Click Export.

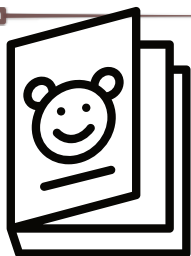
TIP: Put the PDF in a folder where you can find it and give it a name that will help you remember what it is.

For example *Ten is too many Kindle Print Final.PDF*



Now you're ready to create the print book cover.

Create the Book Cover



You are going to make a cover layout. It's almost identical to how you created your Book Dummy template. Actually, it's a little easier because Kindle provides a template for you.

1. Go to Kindle's Cover Calculator

<https://kdp.amazon.com/cover-calculator>

2. Enter your Book Information

The form is titled "Enter Your Book Information" and contains several dropdown menus and a text input field. The options for the dropdowns are: Binding type (Paperback), Interior type (Premium color), Paper type (White paper), Page-turn direction (Left to Right), Measurement units (Inches), Interior trim size (8 x 10 in), and Page count (32). Below the form are three buttons: "Calculate dimensions" (yellow), "Download Template" (white), and "Reset book information" (blue).

3. Press Calculate Dimensions

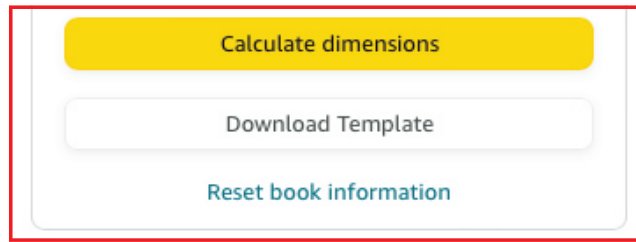
The screenshot shows a table with dimensions for various parts of the book cover. The "Full Cover" row is highlighted with a red border. Below the table is a diagram of a book cover with numbered markers 1 through 5 indicating the dimensions.

#	Description	Width (in)	Height (in)
1	Full Cover	16.325	10.25
2	Front Cover	8	10
3	Safe Area	7.875	9.75
4	Bleed	0.125	0.125
5	Margin	0.125	0.125

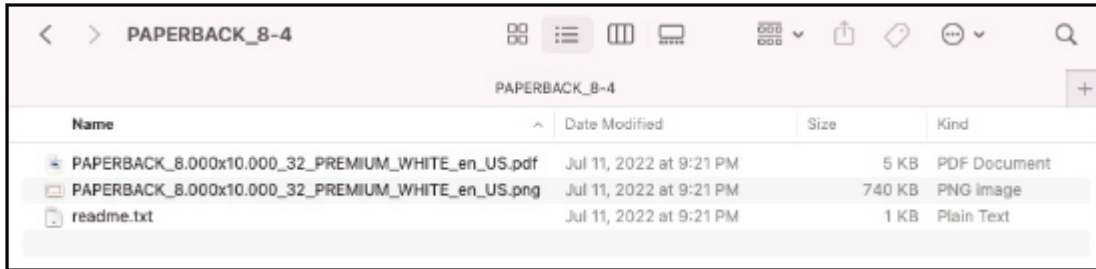
#	Description	Width (in)	Height (in)
6	Spine	0.075	10
7	Spine Safe Area	0	9.75
8	Spine Margin	0.062	0.062
9	Barcode Margin	0.25	0.25

The "Full Cover" Width and Height are going to be the size of your Comic Life project.

4. Press Download Template



5. Open the downloaded zip file.



6. Extract the .png file to a directory that has your graphic files for the book.

IMPORTANT TIP: Extract (Move) the .Png file from the zip file.
 DON'T paste the .PNG into the Comic Life file without removing it from the zip.
 If you don't, when you close your zip file. Your Comic Life program might not be able to find the png. You will get a graphic of a picture and question mark to show that the image is missing.



7. Open Comic Life.

8. Select Blank (with Styles)

9. Go to Page Setup

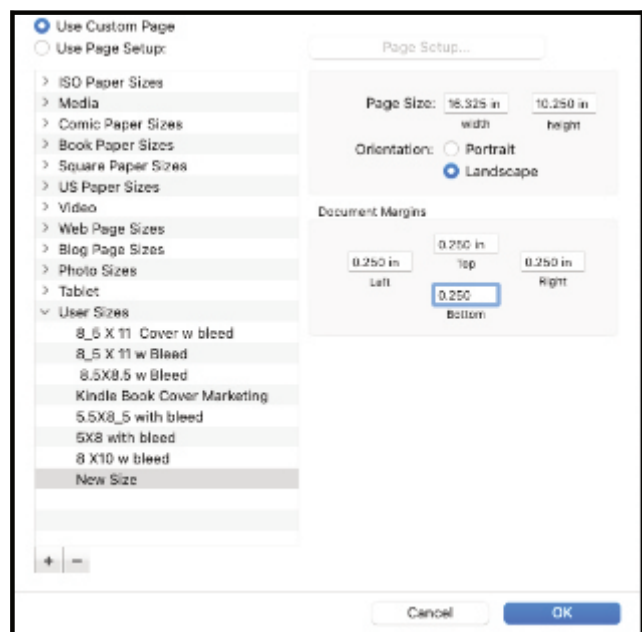
10. Press the + to start a New Size

11. Set the Orientation to Landscape

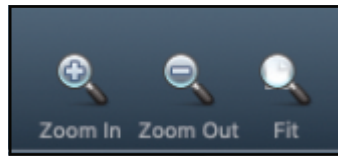
12. Enter the Width and Height in Page Size from the Kindle Dimension (from Step 3)

13. Set all the margins to 0

14. Press OK



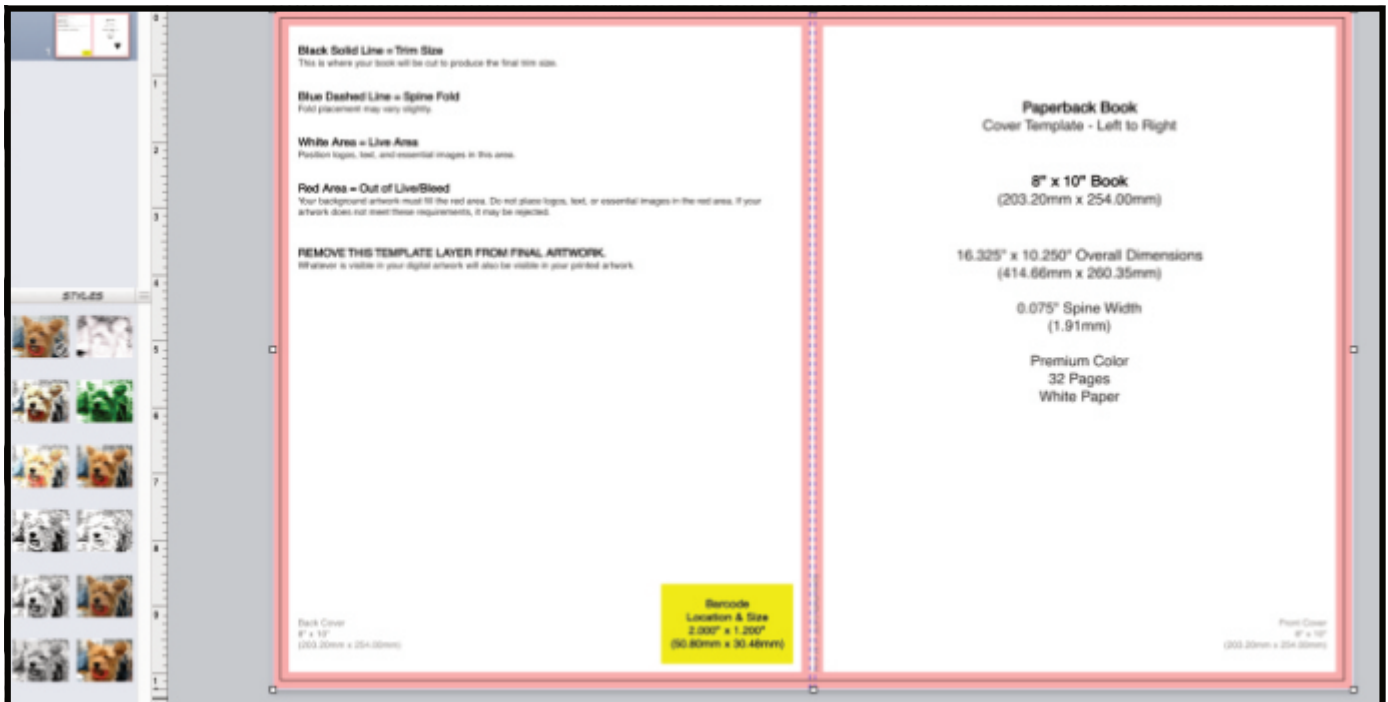
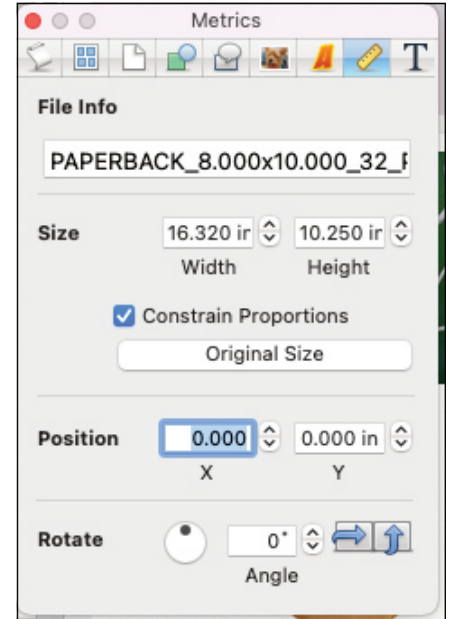
14. Click Fit, so you can see the entire page.



PLACING THE COVER TEMPLATE ON THE PAGE

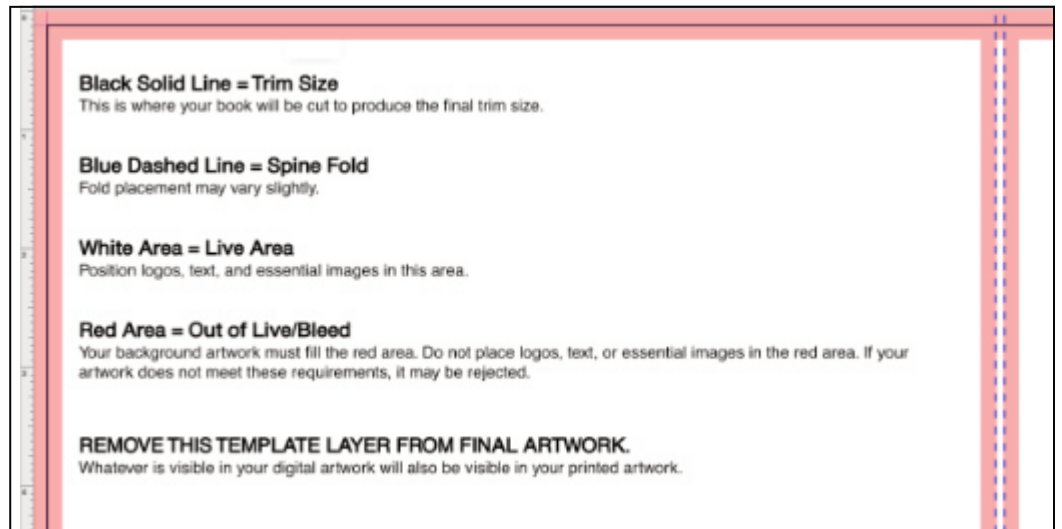
1. Drop the PNG file you extracted in Step 6 onto the page.
2. Open the Inspector and click on the Ruler (Metrics).
3. Click on the PNG image. Then Click the Original Size button in the inspector.
4. Set the X and Y Position to 0.

Now you have the template positioned correctly on the page.



Next, you need to set the alignment bars to the margins. Except, this time, you are going to use the margins on the template.

5. Click and Drag the Alignment Guide from the ruler to the Black Solid Line (Trim Size) on the Template. Repeat this until all four sides are finished.
6. Click and Drag the Alignment Guide to the Blue Dashed Line (Spine Fold). Repeat to cover the second line.



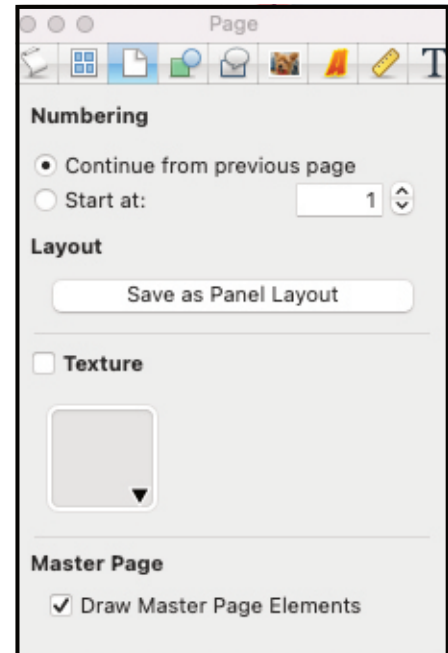
7. Lock the Alignment Guides. Main Menu → View → Lock Alignment Guides

Instead of deleting the Template, you can move it to the Master page.

8. Click on the Template.
9. Main Menu → Arrange → Move Element To Master Page.

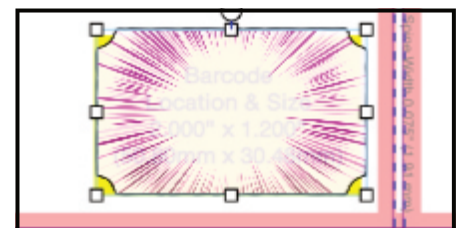
TO HIDE THE TEMPLATE

10. Open the inspector. Choose the Page tab.
11. Uncheck the Draw Master Page Elements box.



UPC CODE AREA

12. So you don't place anything over the UPC Code Area. Drop a panel over the UPC Code Area and lock it into place.
13. When you have finished your cover design, hide it (Opacity = 0) or delete it.



Note: you can place a color or design in the UPC Code Area. The UPC code will be placed on top of it when the book is printed. So plan accordingly.

CREATE THE THUMBNAIL COVER



You need to create one more book cover. The thumbnail cover of your front cover. This will be used when Amazon, Books in Print, and other online services offer your book. The image you are creating is much larger than a thumbnail, but that is how it is usually displayed.

The aspect ratio of the image is different than 8X10, so you will have to adjust your graphics to fit the thumbnail.

Bowkers and Kindle eBooks will want this image when you set up your book.

Here are the recommended dimensions and format for the cover.

Format: JPEG (.jpeg/.jpg) format

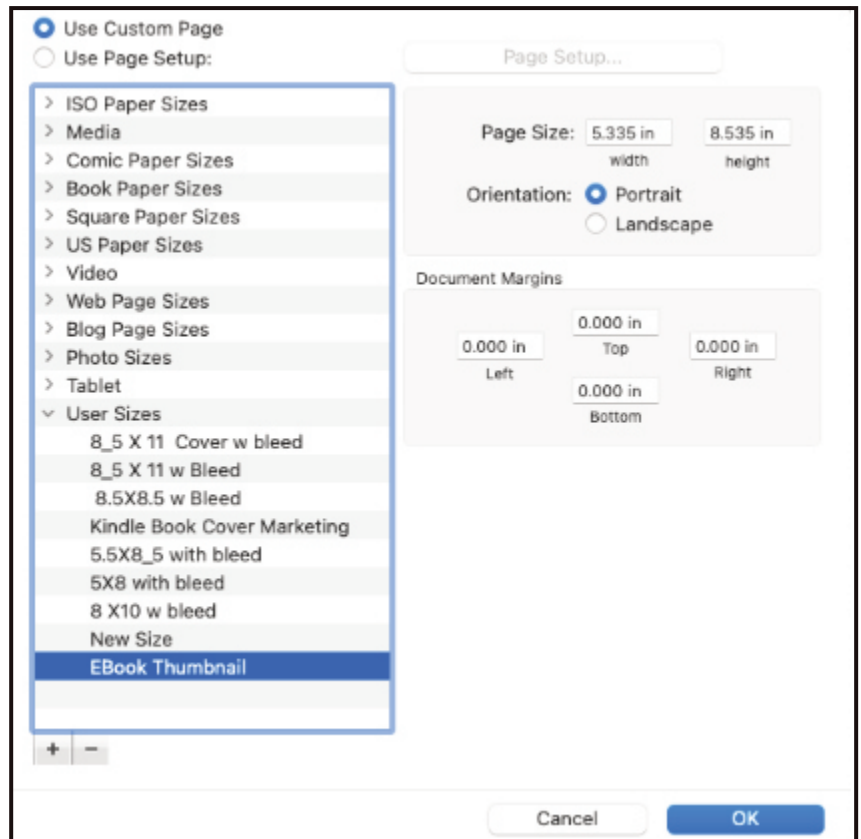
Dimensions: Ideal dimensions for cover files are 2,560 pixels in height x 1,600 pixels in width.

We're going to do a quick calculation and turn that from pixels to inches.

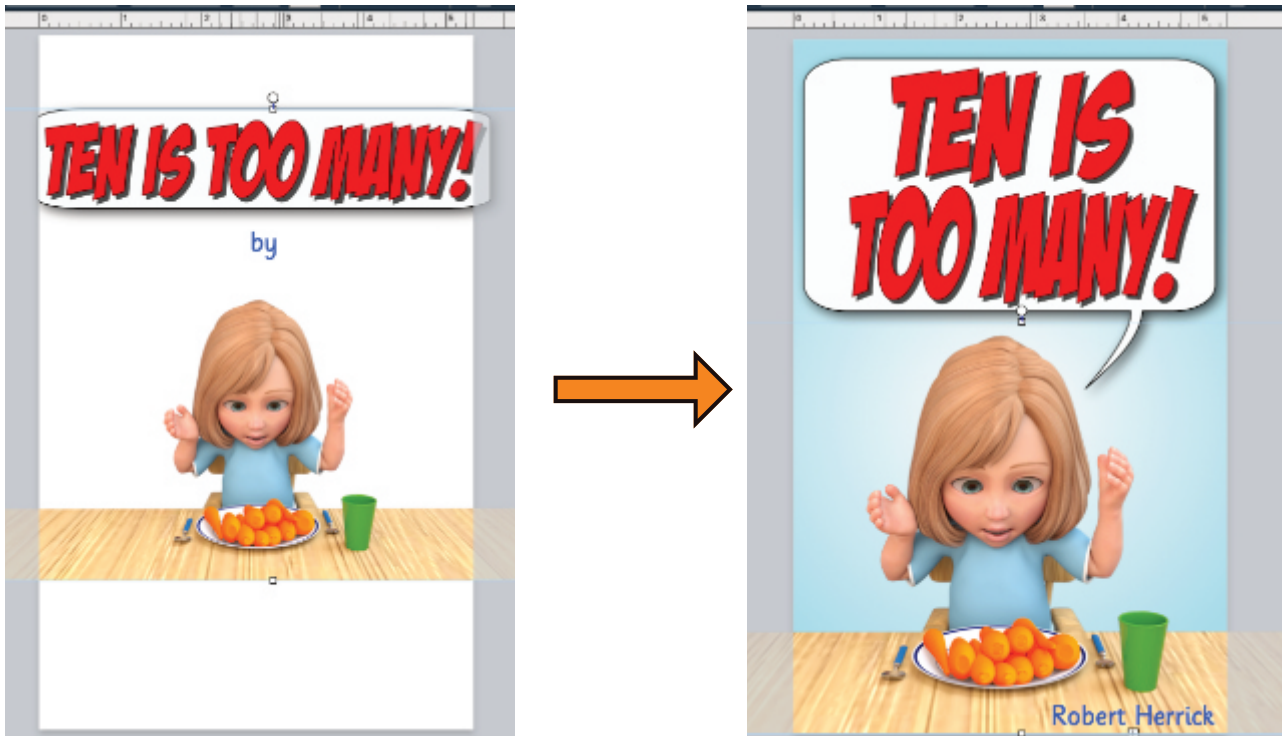
$1600/300 \text{ (DPI)} = 5.34 \text{ inches Wide}$

$2560/300 \text{ (DPI)} = 8.54 \text{ inches High}$

1. Create a New Project
2. Open the Page Setup
Main Menu → File → Page Setup
3. Click + to Create a New Page Size
4. Select Portrait
5. Enter 5.34 W X 8.54 H.
6. Set the Margins to 0
7. Click OK



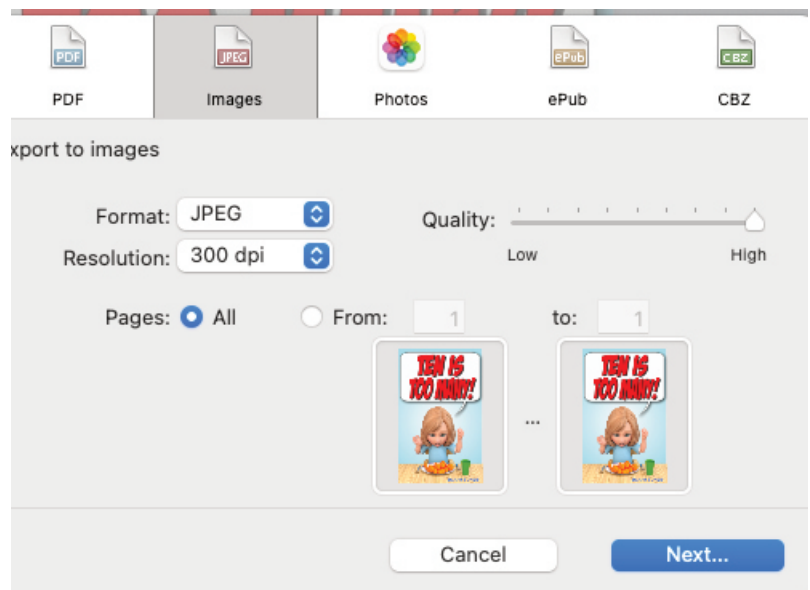
8. Copy your text and graphics from your front book cover. Then rearrange and resize the graphics to fit the thumbnail cover.



9. Export the file as a 300 DPI, High Quality, JPG image.

DON'T EXPORT THE THUMBNAIL COVER AS A PDF.

Save it to a place where you can find it. You'll need it on the Bowker's site and the Kindle eBook site.

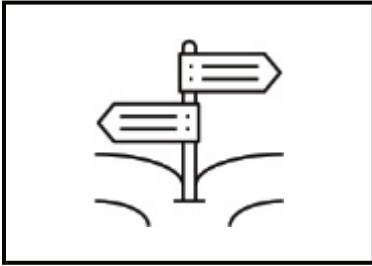


LINKS:

EbookCover Dimensions: https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G200645690

Publishing Steps

Business Decisions



At this point in the process, you have a completed book that you are ready to publish.

Now you need to decide how your book will be distributed and marketed.

Some people just want a book they can give their children and grandchildren and sell to a few friends.

Others want to advertise and sell the book to a mass market audience.

The amount of work, time, and resources for these two goals are vastly different. Just because you start down one of these paths doesn't mean you can't change directions. But you need to decide now what you want to do so you can avoid a lot of issues later.

YOU ARE CREATING A SELF-PUBLISHING BUSINESS

Unless you plan on giving your books away and not making a profit, you are creating a self-publishing business.

You might choose to open a sole-proprietorship and file a DBA for your business name or you might choose to incorporate. To determine what is right for you, you need to seek help in setting up your new business.

You don't want to overlook anything when you're setting up your business.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

The good news is that there is plenty of **free** help to get you setup.



**U.S. Small Business
Administration**

The Small Business Administration has a number of organizations that offer one-on-one mentoring to walk you through the process.

Small Business Administration (SBA)

[SBA.GOV](https://www.sba.gov)

Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)

<https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/resource-partners/small-business-development-centers-sbdc>

Women's Business Centers

<https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/resource-partners/womens-business-centers#section-header-4>

SCORE Business Mentoring

<https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/resource-partners/score-business-mentoring>

Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)

<https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/resource-partners/veterans-business-outreach-center-vboc-program>

Business laws and requirements vary from state to state.

Here are some questions to ask.

- What forms will I need to file?
- Will I need a business license?
- How do I collect taxes on the books that I sell?
- Will my online distributor collect and remit the sales tax?
- Are there any yearly filing fees or deadlines that I need to be aware of?
- Do I need a business checking account?
- Do I need a post office box?
- How much will it cost to maintain the business on a yearly basis?
- Do I need an EIN (Employer Identification Number) from the IRS?

The purpose of this book isn't to give you legal or business advice. Be sure and seek help when setting up your business. If you have any questions, talk to a lawyer. Spending a few dollars on good legal advice can save you thousands in legal fees if things go wrong.

IMPORTANT: Decide what you are going to do before you open your Kindle account or buy your ISBNs. Some of this information can't be changed once you've set it up.

- Don't forget about collecting sales tax!
- Keep good records of your expenses and sales!

TIP: Consider using a pen name.

If your self-published book doesn't sell as well as you hoped. It could hurt your chances of getting an agent or a traditional publisher in the future. They check your sales records before taking on you as a client or author. Just something to consider.

FYI:

Anytime you search the internet about publishing a book, 90% of the responses will be from companies that want to charge you to help publish your book.

Create a Kindle Account



Now that you've got your business setup, it's time to open your Kindle Account.

The sign-up process is straightforward. If you don't have an Amazon account, you'll need to create one.

Then you'll enter the author, payment information (how you'll get paid), and tax information.





Self-publish eBooks and paperbacks for free with Kindle Direct Publishing, and reach millions of readers on Amazon.

Get to market fast. Publishing takes less than 5 minutes and your book appears on Kindle stores worldwide within 72 hours.

Make more money. Earn up to 70% royalty on sales to customers in the US, Canada, UK, Germany, India, France, Italy, Spain, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Australia and more. Enroll in KDP Select and earn more money through Kindle Unlimited and the Kindle Owners' Lending Library.

Keep control. Keep control of your rights and set your own list prices. Make changes to your books at any time.

Publish in digital and print. Publish Kindle eBooks and paperbacks for free on KDP.

Get started today! Self-publish with KDP for free. [Learn how easy it is.](#)

Sign in with your Amazon account

[Sign in](#)

You will be signed in using our secure server

Don't have an Amazon account

[Sign up](#)

Learn more about publishing popular content on KDP:

- Business & Investing
- Comics & Graphic Novels
- KDP Kids
- Kindle Vella - NEW!
- Literature & Fiction
- Mystery, Thriller & Suspense
- Non-fiction
- Romance
- Science Fiction & Fantasy
- Teens & Young Adult

LINKS:

Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) - https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/

Create a KDP Account: https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G200620010

KDP Jumpstart Setup: https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G202187740

Buy Your ISBNs



The International Standard Book Number (ISBN) is a unique numeric identification code for published books.

It establishes you as the publisher of the book. Every PRINT book distributed through Amazon, IngramSpark, and other vendors is required to have an ISBN.

As of this writing, you can get one ISBN for \$125 or ten ISBNs for \$300. My suggestion is to get ten. If you want to publish your book in paperback and a hardcover, that will take two. Any translated versions of your book will need their own ISBN. The Bowker's website has lots of information about this.

BEWARE THE FREE ISBN



It might seem like a distributor like Amazon, IngramSpark, and others are doing you a favor by giving you a free ISBN. **However, That ISBN can't be used outside of their publishing service.**

You can use free ISBNs from different distributors. If so, you will end up with a bunch of ISBNs for one book. This looks unprofessional and might hurt your chances of being stocked in bookstores and libraries.

My advice: You worked hard on your book, and you don't know what the future will hold for it. Invest in your own ISBN numbers.

ISBNs cannot be transferred on an individual basis. If a self-publisher wants to be identified as the publisher, the self-publisher must get their own ISBN. A printing company or publisher services company cannot sell, give away or transfer one of their ISBNs to a customer.

-myIdentifiers.com FAQ

Note: This information on ISBNs applies to books published in the United States. You can find the issuing agency for your country on this website. The International ISBN Agency: <https://www.isbn-international.org/agencies>

CREATE A BOWKER ACCOUNT

1. Go to the Bowker's website and create an account. <https://www.myidentifiers.com>

The screenshot shows the Bowker Identifier Services website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'Sign in/Register', 'Join KDP Making Life', and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are two main sections: 'Sign in to your Account' and 'Create a new account'. The 'Sign in' section has fields for 'Username' and 'Password', and a 'Remember Me' checkbox. The 'Create a new account' section has a 'Register' button. At the bottom, there's a link for 'Forgot Username / Password?'. The footer contains 'Copyright © 2017 Bowker'.

2. We'll leave it to you to fill in the blanks.

Pay special attention to the company name. This is your imprint on KDP.

This screenshot shows a close-up of the 'Company Name*' field. To the right of the input box, there is explanatory text: 'This name will appear as the publisher of your ISBN(s). Amazon (KDP) refers to this item as your "imprint." Personal name may be used.'

This screenshot shows the full account creation form. It includes fields for 'Username/Email address*', 'Password*', 'Confirm password*', 'Organization Type*' (with a dropdown menu), 'Company Name*', and 'Website'. To the right of the 'Company Name' field, there is explanatory text: 'This name will appear as the publisher of your ISBN(s). Amazon (KDP) refers to this item as your "imprint." Personal name may be used.' Below the 'Website' field, there are three checkboxes: 'My company information differs from my personal information', 'I have read and accept the ISBN Terms of Use, Statement of Use, and the Privacy Policy', and 'I want to receive communications from Bowker including Newsletter, alerts, updates, promotions, and product coupons.' At the bottom, there is a checkbox for 'I wish to be included in special offers occasionally sent by Bowker's partners' and a green button labeled 'I Accept - Create My Account'.

It is what will appear on KDP as the Publisher.

This screenshot shows the 'Product details' section on KDP. It lists various details: 'ASIN : BOB8BPCGMT', 'Publisher : No Drawing Required (July 31, 2022)' (highlighted with a red box), 'Language : English', 'Paperback : 176 pages', 'ISBN-13 : 979-8985986822', 'Item Weight : 1.16 pounds', and 'Dimensions : 8.5 x 0.42 x 11 inches'.

**YOU CAN'T CHANGE THIS
LATER. SO CHOOSE A
COMPANY NAME CAREFULLY.**

TIP: You can't change the company name. But you can create a new imprint.

BUY YOUR ISBN NUMBERS

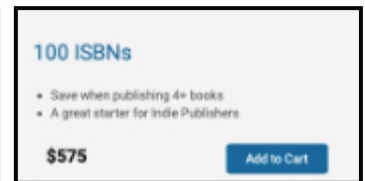
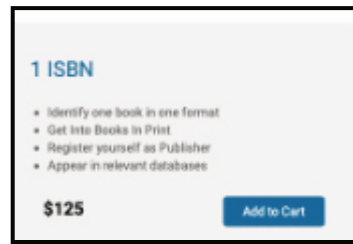
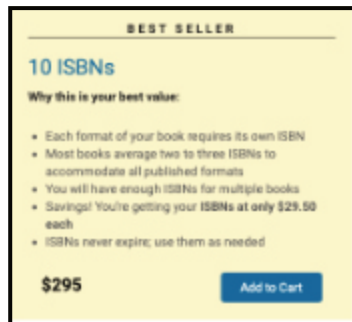
1. Login to your Bowker's account.
2. Go to Register and Copyright Your Book → Buy ISBNs



TIP:

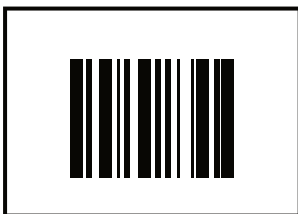
Bowkers sells lots of book publishing services. **Just buy the ISBN numbers.** Don't buy barcodes, QR codes, or other services. You can DIY these things for less money.

3. Select the ISBN package that's right for you.



4. Check out and purchase your ISBNs.

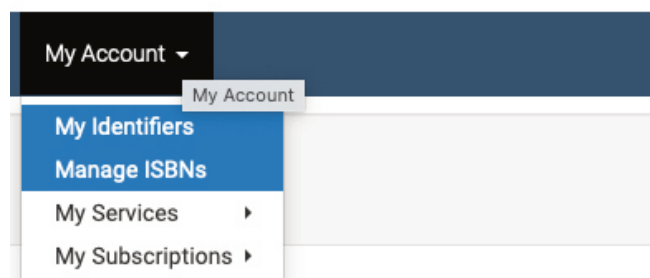
ASSIGN AN ISBN



Now you need to assign one of you ISBNs to your book.

1. Login to Bowkers
2. Select My Account → Manage ISBNs

Welcome Robert Herrick! No Drawing Required Sign Out



3. Select one of the unassigned ISBNs and Click Assign Title.

IDENTIFIER SERVICES

Welcome Robert Herrick!
No Drawing Required
Sign Out
Join VIP Mailing List
0

Register and Copyright Your Book
Publish Your Book
Market Your Book
Learn
FAQs
My Account

Search

My Identifiers
My Subscriptions
My Services
My Profile Data

ISBN Dashboard

10 ISBNs

Search by
Title
ISBN-13 or ISBN-10

Filter Table
First
1
Last

Status	Title	ISBN-13	Media/Format	Cover Image	Barcode
Assigned	Ten Is Too Many!	979-8-9859868-0-8	Paperback	Change	Buy Barcode
Assigned	No Drawing Required: You Don't Have to Learn to Draw to Illustrate Your Children's Book	979-8-9859868-1-5	Ebook	Change	Buy Barcode
Assigned	No Drawing Required: You Don't Have to Learn to Draw to Illustrate Your Children's Book	979-8-9859868-2-2	Paperback	Change	Buy Barcode
	Assign Title	979-8-9859868-3-9		Upload	Buy Barcode
	Assign Title	979-8-9859868-4-6		Upload	Buy Barcode

4. Fill out the information about your book.

Suggestion: Fill out the required sections. (Designated with a Red Asterisk.) You can fill in the other information later.

Assign Your Book's Title Data

ISBN: 979-8-9859868-0-8

Form view
Short
Expanded

1. Title & Cover
2. Contributors
3. Format & Size
4. Sales & Pricing

Title Information

Book Title * [Help](#)

Ten Is Too Many!

[Click here to expand Volume and Edition forms](#)

Subtitle [Help](#)

Describe your book (114 of 350 words) [Help](#)

Can Elizabeth conquer the mountain of carrots on her plate? The tension increases as she chews through the competition. In a battle of skill and endurance, how long can she continue against her little orange nemesis? Its carrots vs kid in "Ten Is Too

Original Publication Date [Help](#) [No HTML mark-up](#)

Current Language [Help](#)

☐ English
☐ Abkhaz
☐ Achinese
☐ Acholi

Language(s) selected:

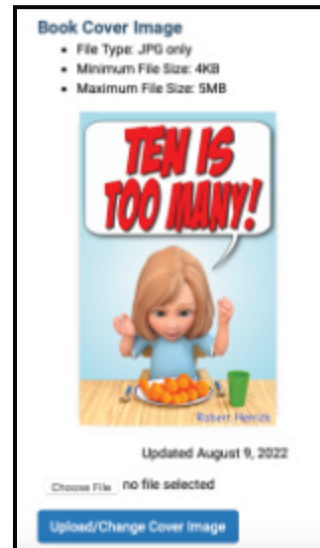
Book Cover Image

- File Type: JPG only
- Minimum File Size: 4KB
- Maximum File Size: 5MB

Updated August 9, 2022

Choose File no file selected

5. Upload the Thumbnail Book Cover JPG you created to the Book Cover Image.



6. Regarding the Pricing Data.

You can set it to:

Write for Info (No set price or free)

Currency: US Dollars

Price Type: Retail Price

If necessary, It can be changed later.

Note: This is NOT where the sale price of your book is set. That is done on the KDP site.

UNITED STATES Price Data			
Currency	Price	Price Type	Price Availability
US Dollars		Retail Price	
Book Price Help ☐ Set Dollar Amount ☒ Write for Info (No set price or free)			
Currency Help US Dollars			
Price Type Help Retail Price			

You will need the following information for the KDP page.

ISBN #

Book Title

Company Name (Imprint)

COPY THIS INFORMATION EXACTLY AS YOU ENTERED IT.

Publisher Imprints

+ No Drawing Required UNITED STATES

+ Add Imprint

Kindle Direct Publishing (Amazon) Customers.

If you have been asked for your imprint name by **Kindle Direct Publishing or another Amazon division**, you are being asked for **No Drawing Required**.

For MyIdentifier purposes, an imprint is a trade name or brand name used instead of your company/organization/publisher name to identify a line of books.

DO NOT ADD an imprint that is the same name as your company/organization/publisher name.

Note: If you want a different name to appear as the publisher. Go to My Account → My Profile Data → My Company. At the book of the page you can create a new imprint.

Publish Your Book on Kindle

All your hard work is getting ready to pay off. Soon, you'll have a copy of your book in your hands! It's time to publish your print book on Amazon KDP.

It's up to you to fill in the blanks as you did on the Bowker's page.

I'll point out any sections that need special attention.

KDP HOME PAGE

1. Login to your KDP account.
2. Click on the + Create Button.

Create. Manage. Publish.

Publish a new title by clicking Create. Or manage your existing titles from your books below.

UPDATED Create a new title or series.
Reach readers in the format they want. You can now publish an eBook, paperback, hardcover book, or Kindle Vella story. If publishing a series, you can create an Amazon series page and add your books.
New to KDP? Learn more about our resources to help you get started:
[Create a book](#) | [Book timelines](#) | [Free ISBNs](#) | [Tools and resources](#)

+ Create

Your Books

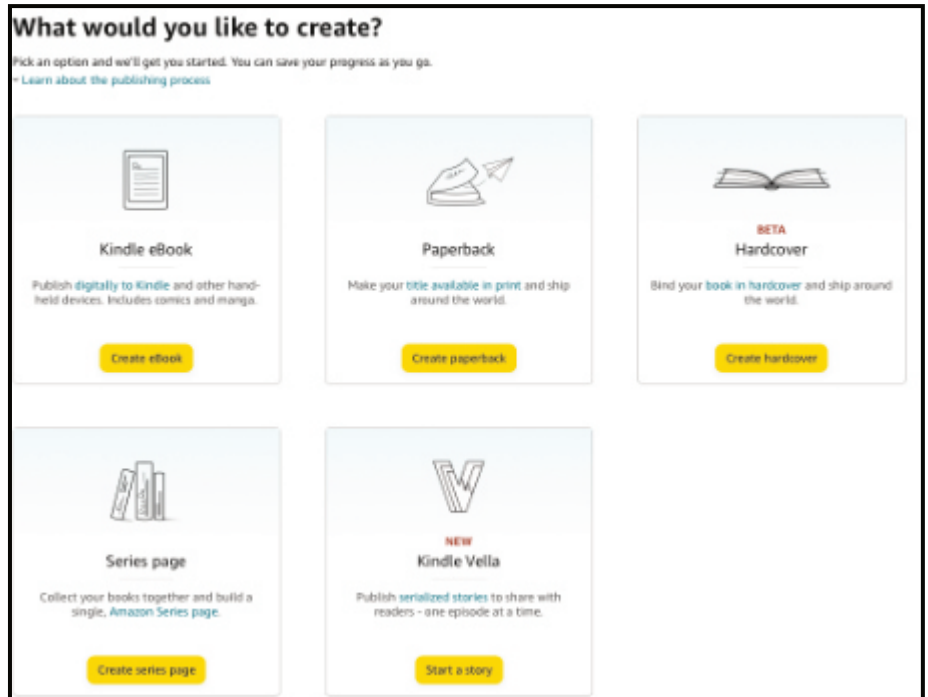
Sort by: Last Modified Filter by: All ☐ View titles in series Search

	Kindle eBook LIVE Updates in review Submitted on April 20, 2020	\$2.99 USD View on Amazon ASIN: B087CC71SH	KINDLE EBOOK ACTIONS Continue setup
	Paperback DRAFT Last modified on July 23, 2022	PAPERBACK ACTIONS Continue setup	
+ Create hardcover		Link existing hardcover	

[Why offer multiple formats?](#)

What would you like to create?

3. Select Paperback



SECTION 1: Paperback Details

4. The Book Title needs to be **EXACTLY** as you entered it on the Bowkers site.

kindle direct publishing | Bookshelf | Reports | Community | Marketing

Paperback Details Complete | **Paperback Content** Complete | **Paperback Rights & Pricing** Complete

Language
Choose your paperback's primary language (the language in which the book was written). [Learn more about languages supported for paperbacks.](#)
English

Book Title
Enter your title as it appears on the book cover. This field cannot be changed after your book is published. [Learn more about book titles.](#)
Book Title
Ten Is Too Many
Subtitle (Optional)

Adult Content
Does this book contain language or images inappropriate for children under 18 years of age?
☒ No
☐ Yes

[Save as Draft](#) [Save and Continue](#)
Next step: Content

SECTION 2: Paperback Content

5. Print ISBN

6. Select “Use my own ISBN.”
7. Enter the ISBN. You may need to remove the hyphens.
8. Enter the Imprint (Company Name) EXACTLY as you entered it on the Bowkers site.
9. Leave the Publication Date Blank,

SECTION 2: Paperback Content (continued)

10. Print Options

11. **Ink and Paper Type:** Select “Premium color interior with white paper.”

12. **Trim Size:** Select 8X10 in. (or whatever trim size you choose for your book)

13. **Bleed Settings:** Select “Bleed (PDF only)”

14. **Paperback cover finish:** Select Glossy.

SECTION 2: Paperback Content (continued)

Import Your PDF into Kindle



Manuscript

15. Click “Upload paperback manuscript.”
16. Upload your PDF manuscript file that you exported from Comic Life.

Book Cover

17. Upload your PDF Cover file that you exported from Comic Life.

Manuscript

Upload a manuscript of your book interior content. For best results, we recommend using a formatted PDF file to create your book. You can also upload a DOC (.doc), DOCX (.docx), HTML (.html), or RTF (.rtf). Hebrew, Japanese, Latin, and Yiddish only support PDF manuscripts. [Learn more about manuscripts](#) or [download a KDP template](#) for your preferred trim size.

Upload paperback manuscript

Manuscript "Ten s too Many Print book Color Enance.pdf" uploaded successfully!

Book Cover

We recommend a book cover for a good reader experience. You can create a cover using our Cover Creator tool or upload your own book cover. [Learn more about book covers](#) or [download a KDP template](#) to create your own cover.

☐ Use Cover Creator to make your book cover (upload your own cover image or use KDP's stock images)

☒ Upload a cover you already have (print-ready PDF only)

Upload your cover file

Cover uploaded successfully!

Does your cover include a barcode?

☐ Check this box if the cover you're uploading includes a barcode. If you don't check the box, we'll add a barcode for you. [Learn more about barcode size and placement.](#)

Preview Your Book



Book Preview

18. Click “Launch Previewer” This is covered in the next section.

Summary

This shows your printing cost and other information about your book.

Book Preview

Preview your file to check for formatting and print quality issues. [Learn more about formatting and print quality on KDP.](#)

Launch Previewer

Summary

[Learn more about printing costs on KDP.](#)

Ink and Paper Type: Premium color interior with white paper
Bleed Settings: Bleed (PDF only)
Paperback cover finish: Glossy
Trim Size: 8.5 x 8.5 in
Page Count: 32

Your Printing Cost

\$3.65 per book on Amazon.com

£2.05 on Amazon.co.uk
 €2.40 on Amazon.de
 €2.40 on Amazon.fr
 €2.40 on Amazon.es
 €2.40 on Amazon.it
 €2.40 on Amazon.nl
 zł11.06 on Amazon.pl
 kr24.34 on Amazon.se
 ¥475 on Amazon.co.jp
 \$4.78 on Amazon.ca
 \$5.95 on Amazon.com.au

[Back to Details](#)
[Save as Draft](#)
[Save and Continue](#)

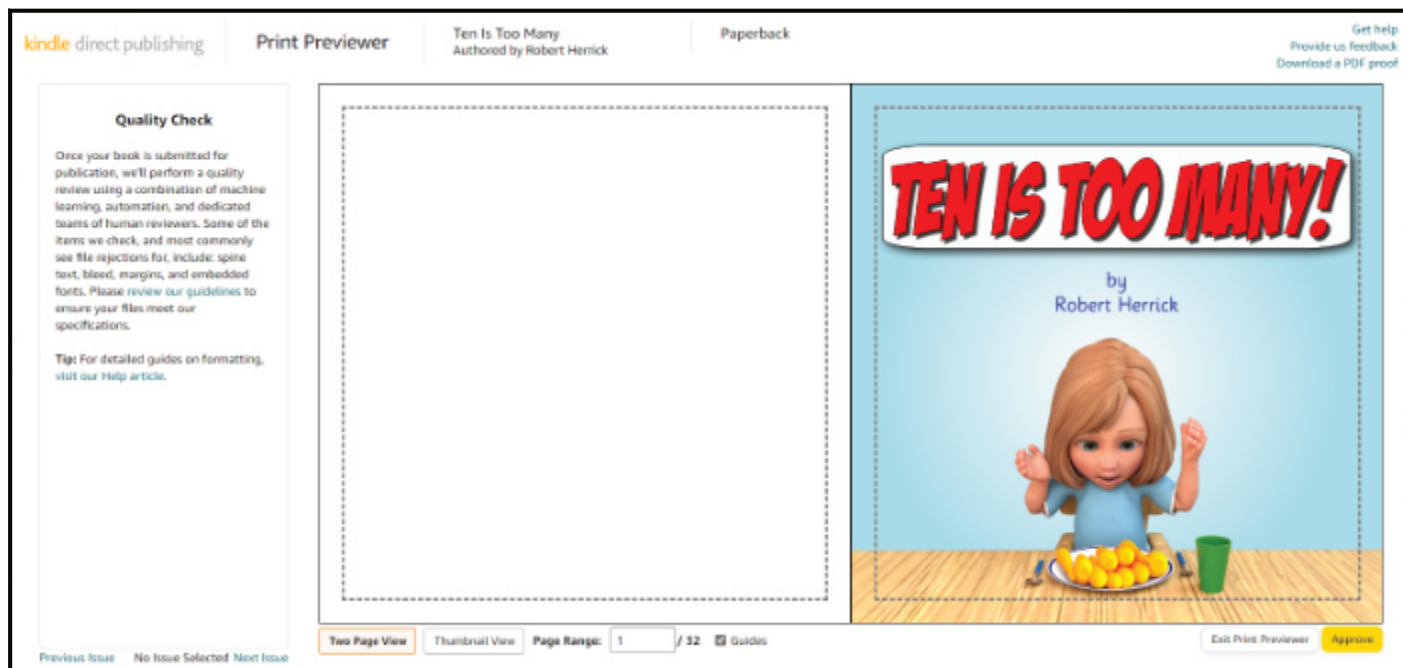
Next step: Pricing

We’re going to jump into the Kindle Previewer and then come back to finish up with Section 3.

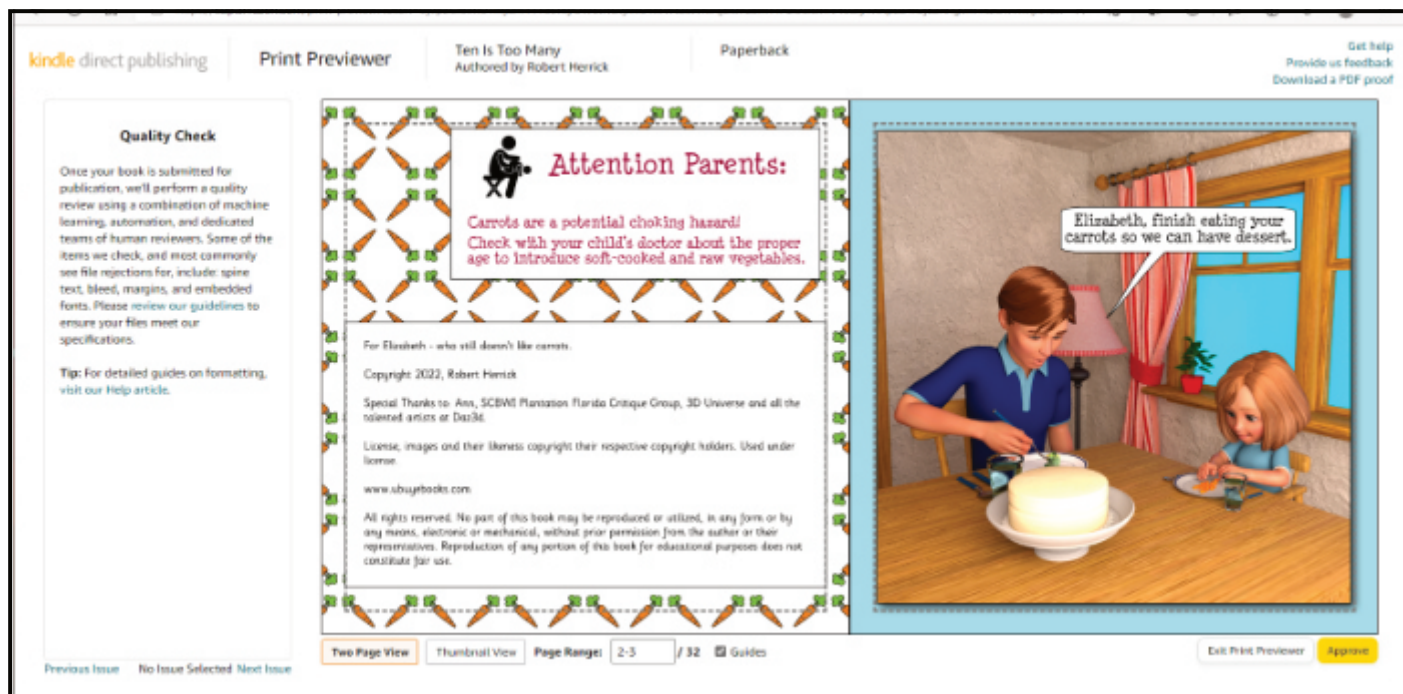
The Kindle Previewer

THE KINDLE PREVIEWER

The Kindle previewer checks your manuscript for any errors that could ruin your printed books. The majority of errors will be having your graphics outside the safe zone.



You can page through your book. Pay attention to the safe zone lines. It's better to have plenty of room around your graphics than to take things right to the edge.

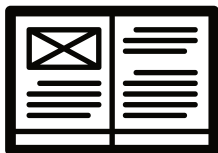


WHAT ERRORS LOOK LIKE IN THE PRINT PREVIEWER

The Previewer will list the errors it finds on the left side of the page. You can click on the page number to see the error. A red triangle with an exclamation point will flag the error. Here the IRAY RENDER SETTINGS text is too close to the Safe Zone.

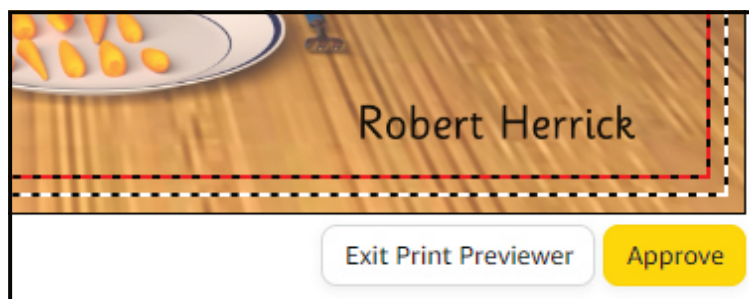
The screenshot shows the Kindle Previewer interface. On the left, an 'ERROR' message states: 'If your book has errors, it won't meet our quality standards. To publish your book, you will need to fix the errors.' Below this, a red box highlights a text error: 'This text is outside the margins. Learn how to change the margins in your original file.' The page number '130' is shown in a grey box. Below the error, a 'Quality Check' section explains that the book will be reviewed for file rejections, including spine text, bleed, margins, and embedded fonts. On the right, the 'Rendering Controls' panel is visible. It includes a 'LOAD YOUR SETTINGS' button and a message: 'Select this preset from the Dimension Preset Dropdown to reload your settings.' Below this, the 'RENDER SETTINGS TAB' section explains that the tab controls how the 3D world is converted into a 2D picture. It lists several checks: 'Check that the Engine Dropdown, located at the top of the tab, is set to NVIDIA Iray.' A screenshot of the 'Render Settings' panel is shown, with the 'Engine' dropdown set to 'NVIDIA Iray'. The 'Dimension Preset (Global)' and 'Pixel Size (Global)' settings are also visible.

Note: Make sure that any graphic **that extends into the bleed area** goes all the way to the edge of the bleed. (Don't leave any white space in the bleed area.) If you do, you will get an email from Kindle when they do the final check on the book. The email will tell you to increase the page size by .125 inches. Instead, check for white space and resubmit .



FIX ANY PROBLEMS

Exit the Print Previewer and fix any problems in Comic Life, then upload the new PDF. Once things look good, Click the Approve button.



Publish Your Book

Approving or Exit Print Previewer will take you back to “Paperback Content.. Go to the bottom of the screen and “Save and Continue.”

SECTION 3: Paperback Content (continued)

Paperback Details
✓ Complete

Paperback Content
✓ Complete

Paperback Rights & Pricing
✓ Complete

Territories

Select the territories for which you hold distribution rights. [Learn more about distribution rights.](#)

☒ All territories (worldwide rights) [What are worldwide rights?](#) ▾

☐ Individual territories [What are Individual Territory rights?](#) ▾

Primary marketplace

Choose the location where you expect the majority of your book sales.

Amazon.com ▾

Pricing, royalty, and distribution

Enter the list price you'd like to sell your book for. Your book will be distributed in the marketplaces listed. You also have the option to make your book available to bookstores and other distributors, reaching readers beyond Amazon. [How does pricing and royalties work?](#)

Marketplace ▾	List Price ▾	Printing ▾	Amazon ▾		☐ Expanded Distribution ▾	
			Rate ▾	Royalty ▾	Rate ▾	Royalty ▾
Amazon.com	\$ 8.99 USD Min. \$6.08, Max. \$250.00 ▾ All marketplaces are based on this price	\$3.65	60%	\$1.74	☐ 40%	\$0.00

Pricing, royalty, and distribution

19. Enter your book price into the List Price box. You can play about with different numbers to see what your royalty will be.

You have control over your book’s price and can change it at any time.

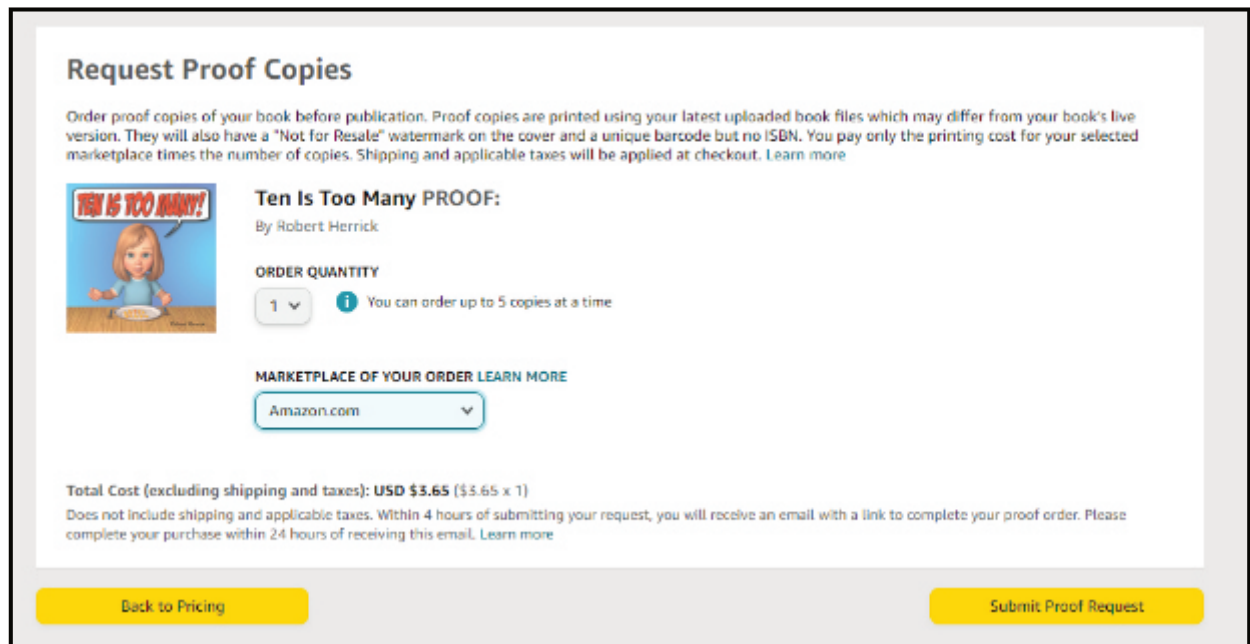
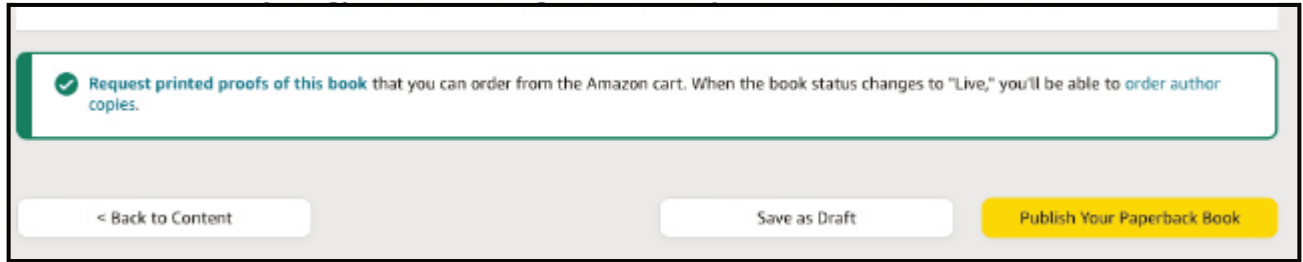
Suggestion: Check out similar books on Amazon to get an idea of what to price your book.



ORDER AN AUTHOR PROOF

20. Click on the Green “Request printed proofs of this book.”

This will let you order proofs of your book. The proofs come with a grey “Not For Resale” banner across the front of the book.



TIP: Once you have a manuscript and cover upload and have fixed any errors, **order an author proof.** The price is extremely reasonable, and you will find things to fix that you didn't see in the print previewer.

You can fix your manuscript and order new author proofs as often as you need to.

ADJUSTING THE IMAGES

When you get your author proof, you might find that some of the images are too dark.

You can use the Image Adjustment tool in the Inspector to adjust the Brightness and Exposure to lighten (or darken) the image.

TIP: If possible, avoid dark backgrounds in your images, due to the printing process. Details get lost in the dark images.

If you have dark images, the foreground images should have a high contrast against the dark background.

Decreasing the contrast can bring out some details.

EXPORT THE PDF AND UPLOAD IT TO KINDLE AGAIN.

It's a good idea to order another author proof and make sure everything looks good.

The print quality of your book will vary slightly with each printing run.

In the tests I've run, it looks like Kindle makes some color adjustment on the images to optimize them for printing. So, don't spend too much time "fine-tuning" your images.

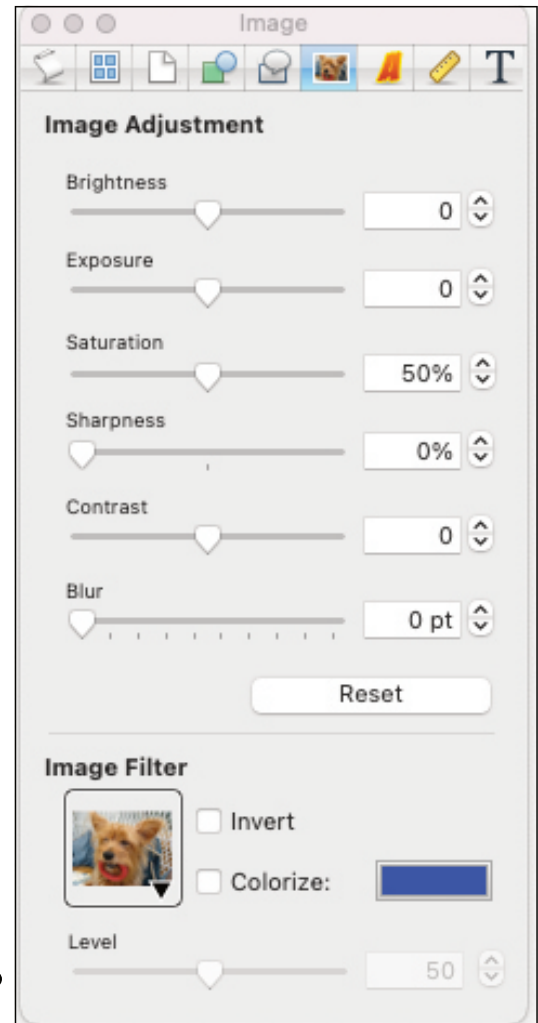
HOW DO YOU KNOW IF A BOOK IS FINISHED AND READY FOR PUBLICATION?

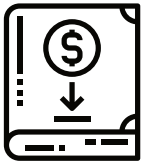
- Does it look professional?
- Is it spelled and punctuated correctly?
- Are there any errors that draw your attention? Can you fix them and still stay within budget?
- Will fixing the problem sell more copies of your book?

There is no point when a book is finished. You just decide that it is finished.

You can always fix the problem and upload a new version.

However, that should never be a reason to upload an inferior product. You only get one chance to make a first impression on your readers.



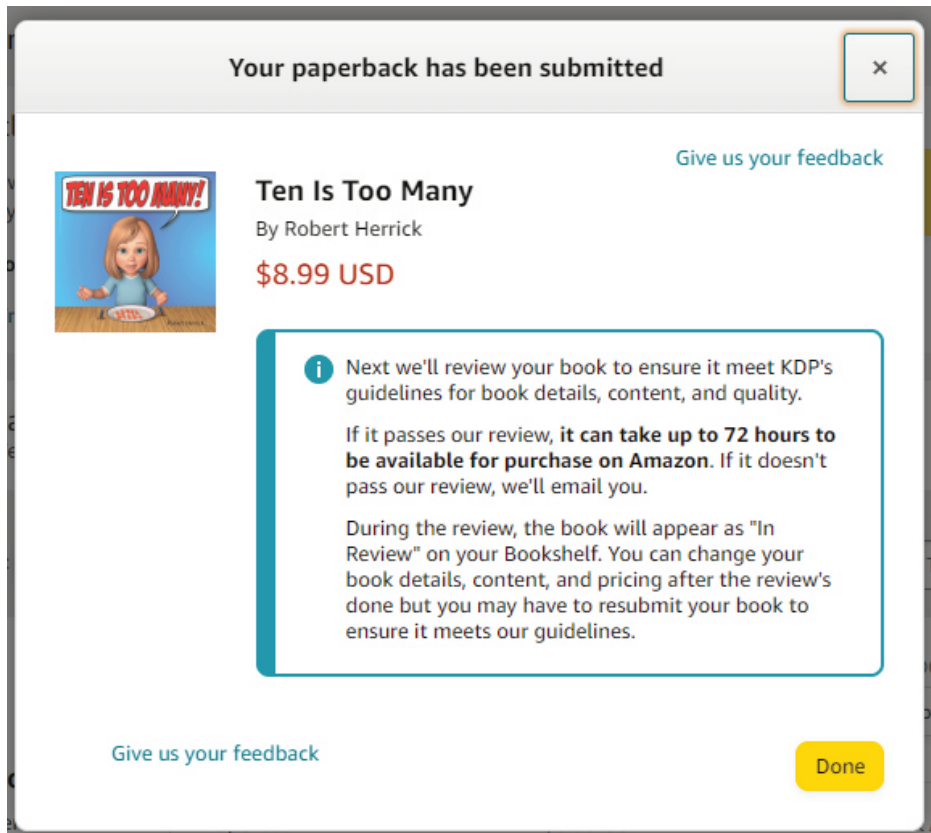


SUBMISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

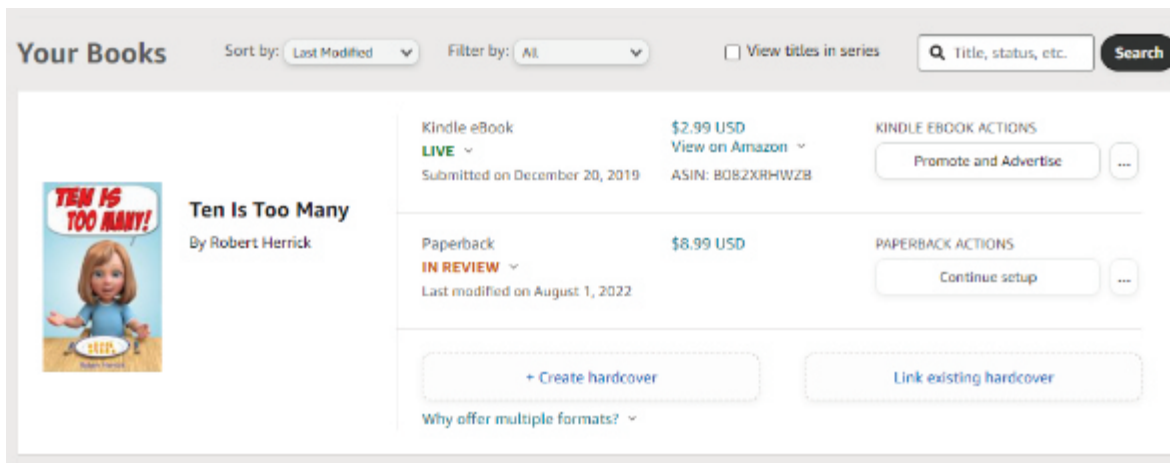
21. Once the problems are resolved, press the “Publish Your Paperback Book” button.

Publish Your Paperback Book

KDP will do a final review and will accept your book. You will get the following popup.



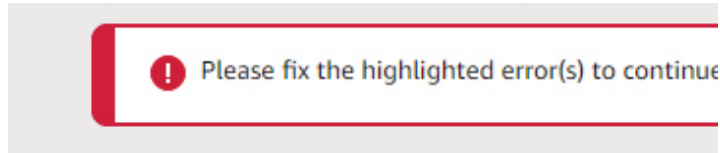
Your book will appear on your KDP home page.



THE MYSTERY ERROR

You need to know about an error that isn't well documented on KDP.

Hopefully, all went well when you published your book. However, if you press the "Publish Your Paperback Book" button and get the following error.

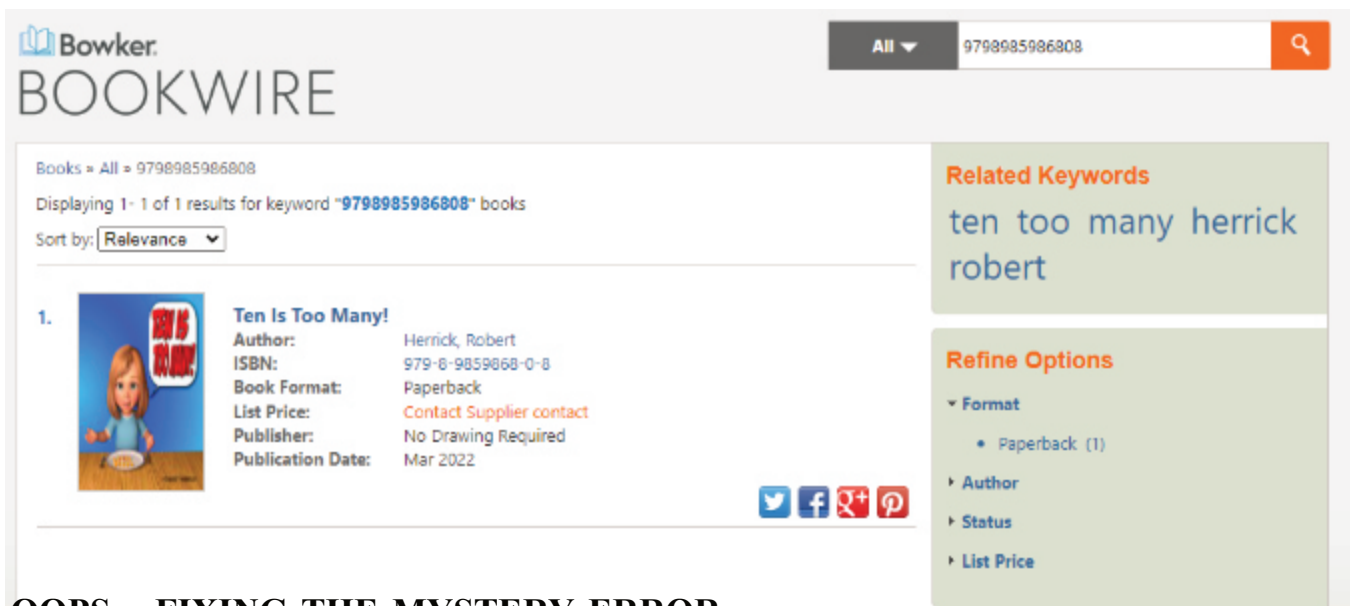


You check all the sections on KDP and can't find any highlighted error.

That usually means is that your title and/or the ISBN number don't match the information entered on Bowkers.

You can check what is entered on Bowkers.

- Go to <https://www.bookwire.com>
- Enter your ISBN in the search box.



OOPS - FIXING THE MYSTERY ERROR

Here is an example of how to fix the error.

I goofed up when I went to publish my book. I added an exclamation mark to my KDP book title. Adding the exclamation mark to the KDP book title solved the problem.

Book Title

Ten Is Too Many!

BOWKERS BOOK TITLE

Book Title

Enter your title as it appears in titles.

Book Title

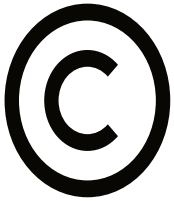
Ten Is Too Many

KDP BOOK TITLE

Copyright Your Book

Congratulations!
You're a self-published author.

This is a great accomplishment. Your hard work and imagination have transformed into a picture book you can touch, read and share.



COPYRIGHT YOUR BOOK

Now is an excellent time to copyright your book. Filing a copyright will help protect your intellectual property. Registering a copyright isn't difficult. You create an account on the Library of Congress website. Fill out the form, upload your PDF and pay the filing fee.

Filing a copyright is not required. If you have questions, check out the Library of Congress website or talk to an attorney.

TIP: Registering a copyright is easy. Don't pay someone to do it for you.

LINKS:

Library of Congress Copyright Office: <https://copyright.gov>

Copyright Office FAQ: <https://copyright.gov/help/faq/>

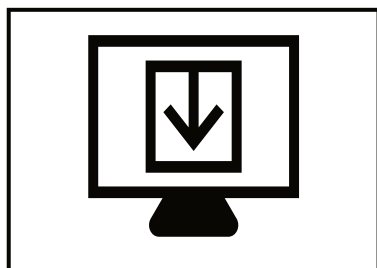
LOC Registration Portal: <https://copyright.gov/registration/>

Creating Your eBook

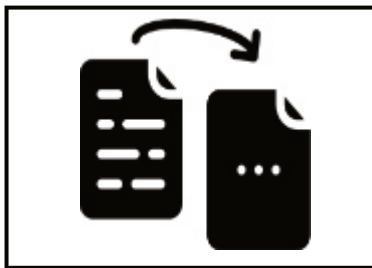
CONVERTING YOUR PRINT BOOK INTO AN EBOOK

Converting your print book into an eBook is much easier than creating the print book. By using the Kindle Create program, you won't have to layout or reformat your book.

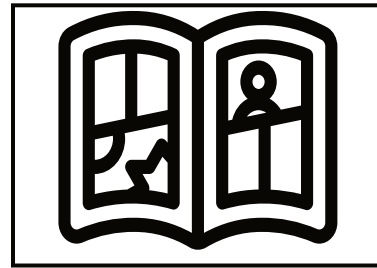
Install Kindle Create



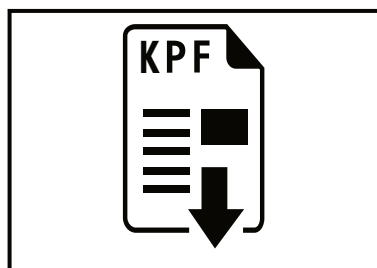
Import your PDF into Kindle Create



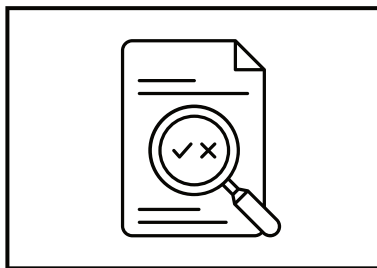
Convert to Kindle Comic Format



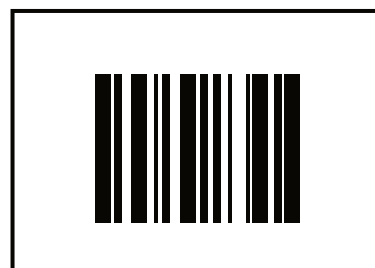
Export Your Kindle eBook KDF



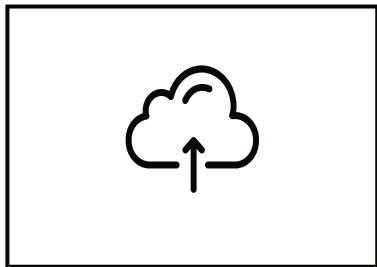
Preview Your book



Assign a ISBN (Optional)



Import your eBook KPF into Kindle



Publish your eBook



YOUR EBOOK

This was covered earlier in the book. You have two options to create an eBook. Use Kindle Create to create a Comic Version of your book or create a separate Comic Life Version. Creating the Kindle Create version is the easiest and fastest option.

In the current market, you will sell more print books than ebooks. So you use your eBook to drive sales of your print book.

The main drawback of using Kindle Create Comic Book Layout is that it is only available on Kindle.

- Although, you can export your Comic life layout to other formats. Exporting your eBook to other eBook publishing platforms like iBooks, Kobo, and Barnes and Noble is outside the scope of this book.

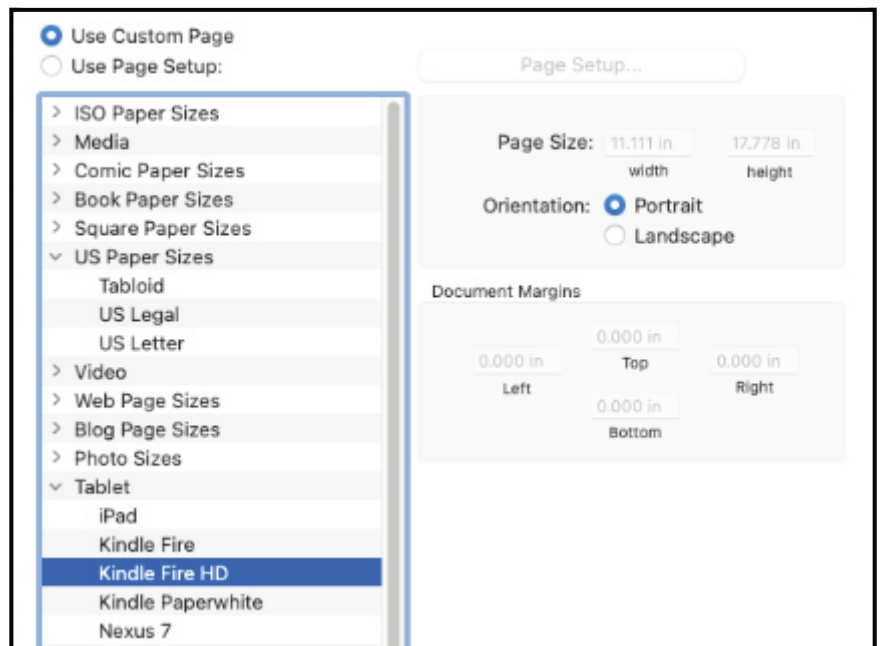
YOU CAN CREATE TWO SEPARATE VERSIONS

You can create two separate layouts to get a print and an eBook version. You would make a copy of the Comic Life file and reformat it for the eBook version.

I suggest converting your print book to a Kindle eBook with Kindle Create Comic layout and publish it. If you don't like the results, you can always create a separate eBook version and publish that.

IF YOU DECIDE TO CREATE TWO VERSIONS

- Save As your Comic Life project to a new file name.
 - You want to make sure you have both versions of the project.
- **TIP:** Group all of the items on each page. Then shrink the graphics before you resize the page.
- Set your Page Setup to the Kindle Fire HD





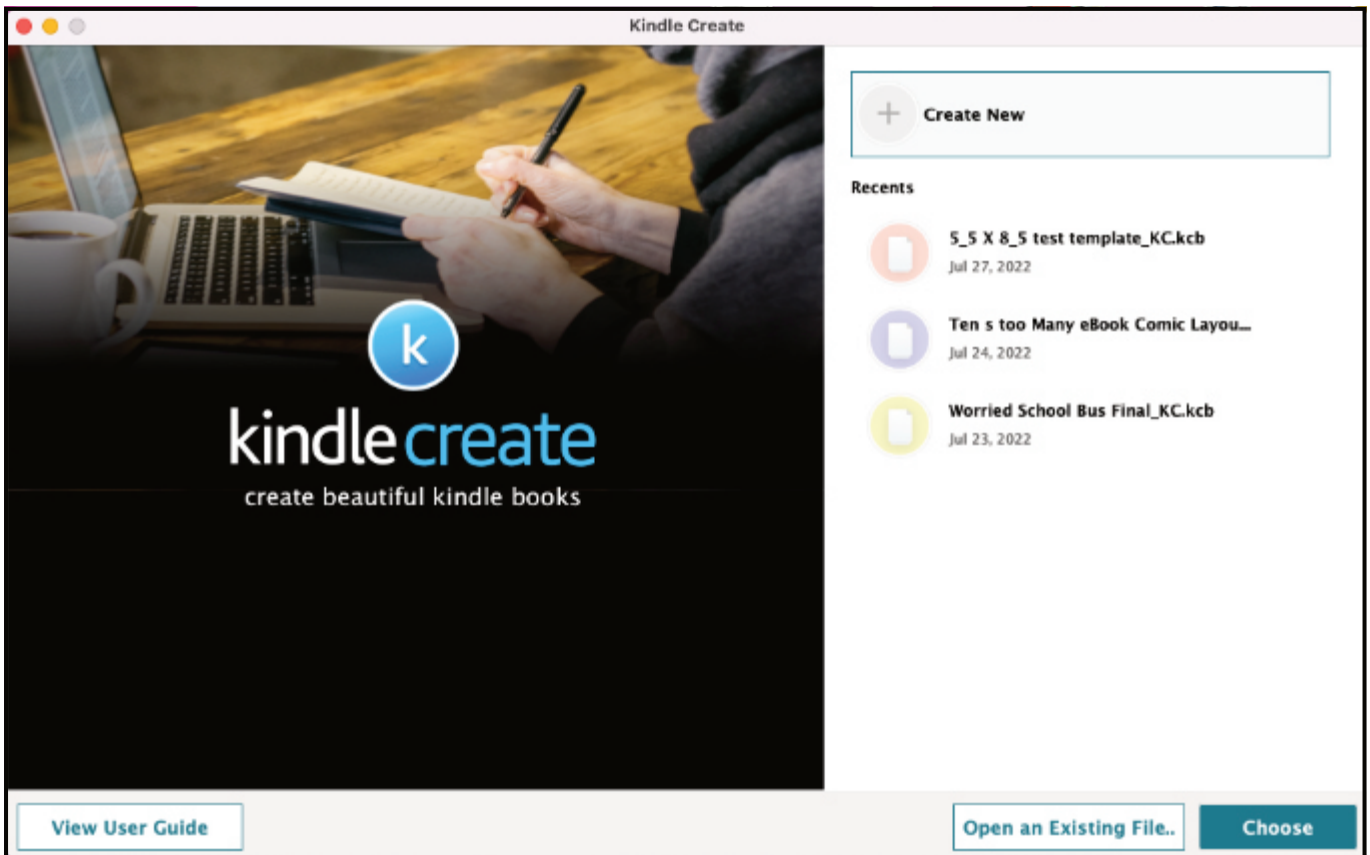
1. Download and Install Kindle Create.



LINK: Kindle Create: <https://www.amazon.com/Kindle-Create/b?ie=UTF8&node=18292298011>

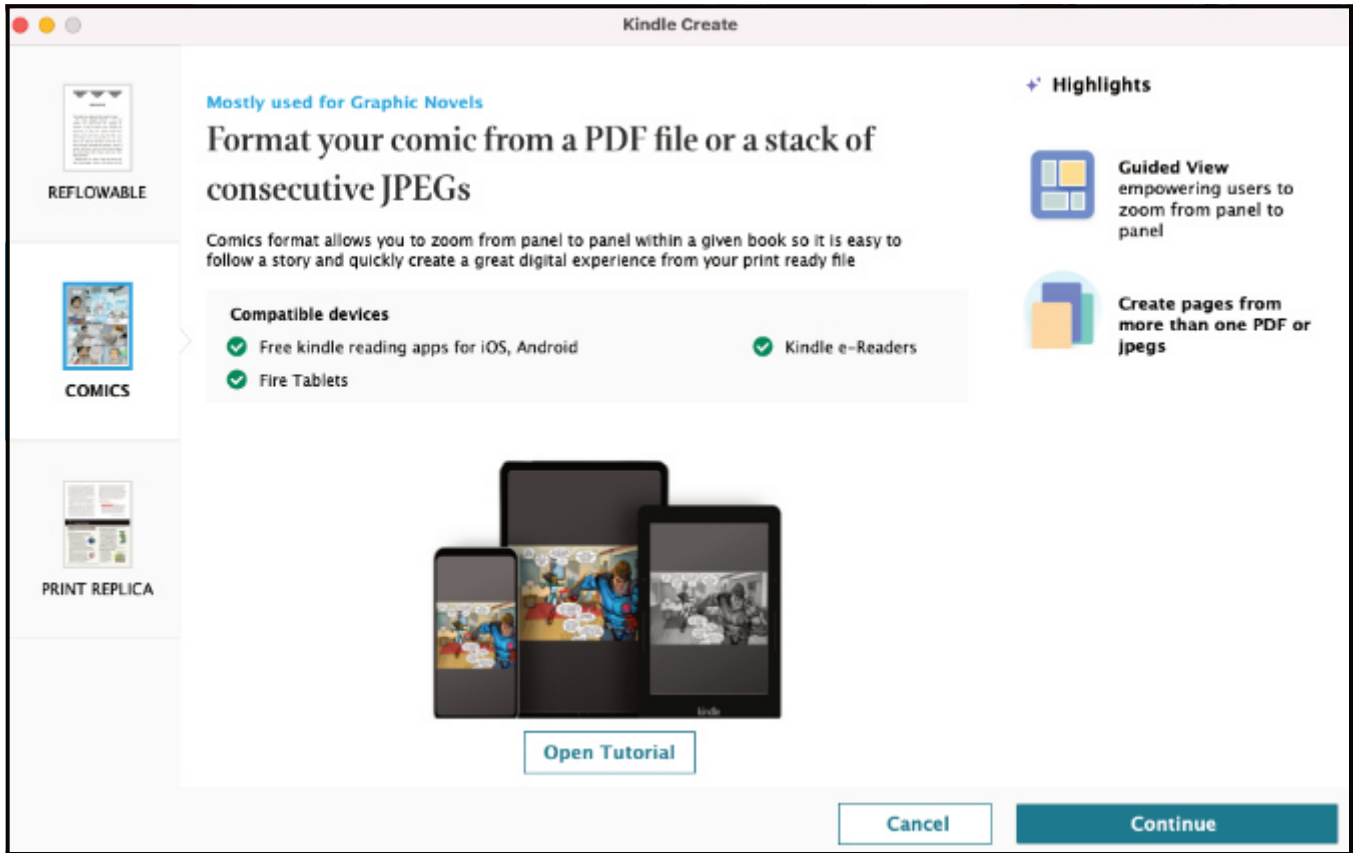
2. Open Kindle Create.

3. Click Create New.



LINK: Prepare Comic eBooks with Kindle Create :
https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/GJMRD9F78MS9F43R

4. Select Comics Icon and click Continue.

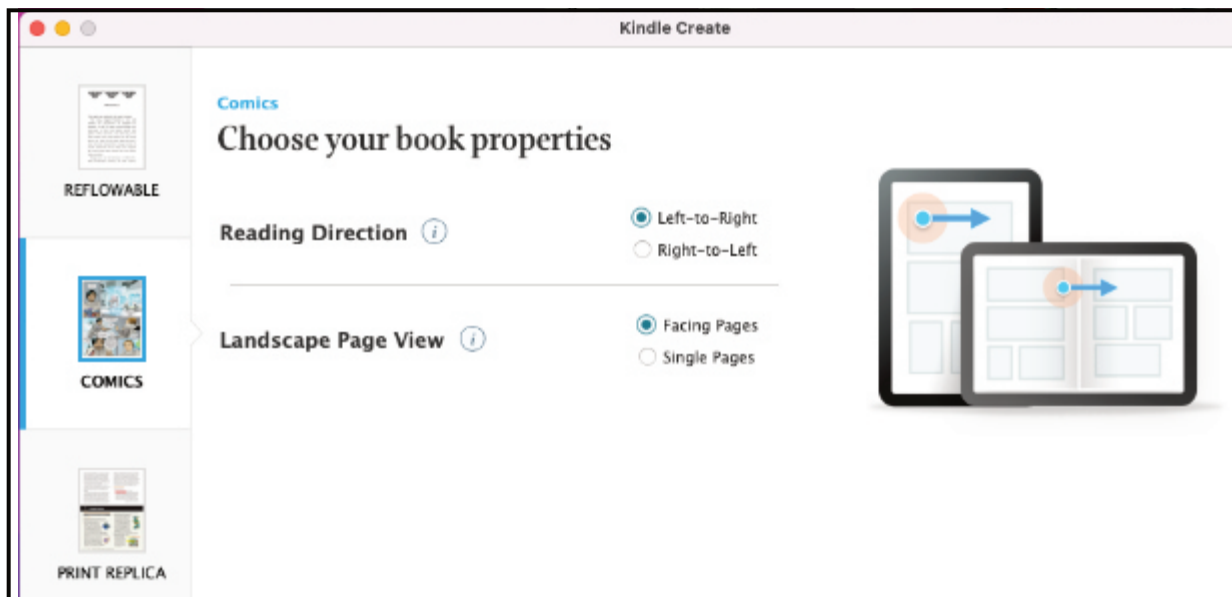


TIP: The Tutorial has detailed instructions about the Comics (Guided View) tool.

5. Set your Reading Direction to Left-to-Right.

6. Set the Landscape Page View to Facing Pages.

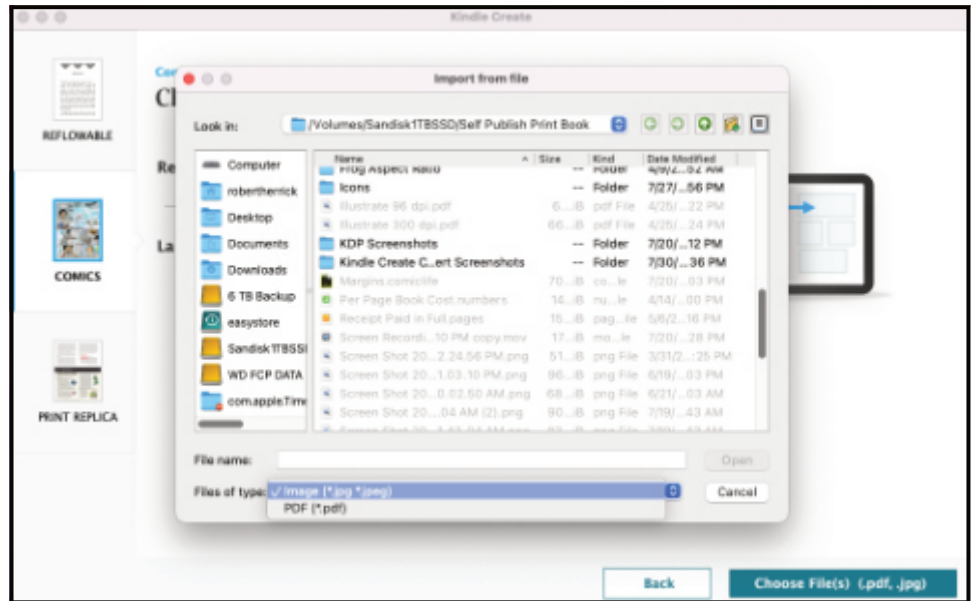
7. Click Continue



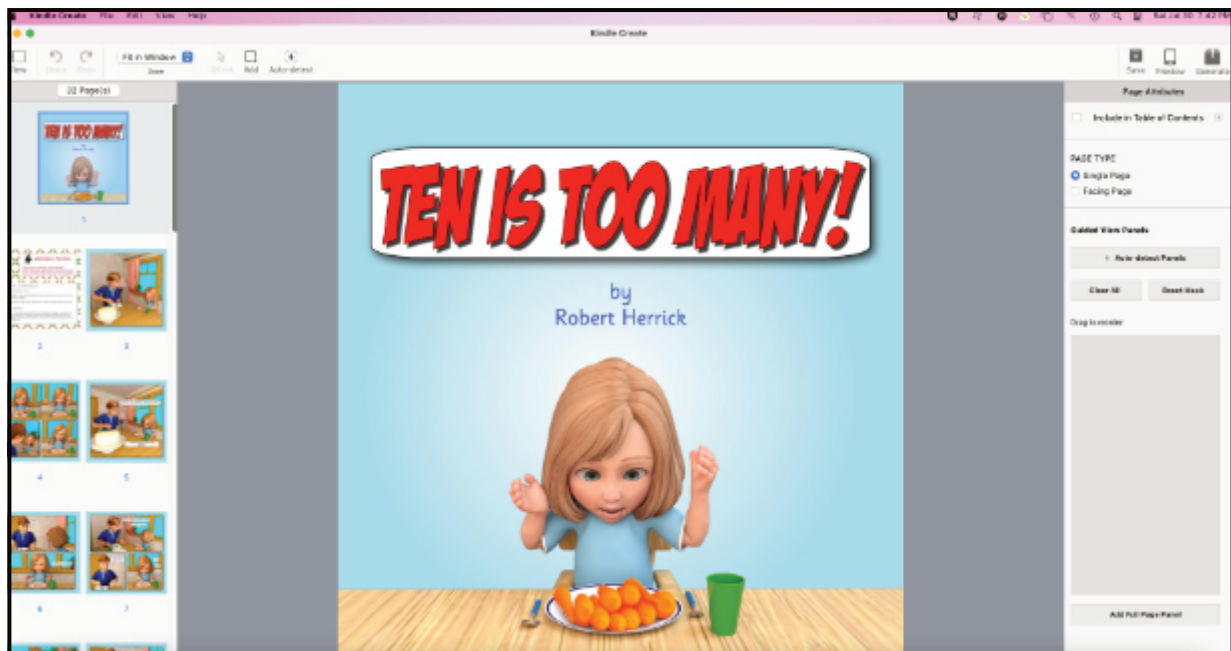
IMPORT YOUR PDF INTO KINDLE CREATE



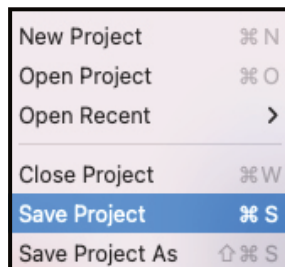
5. Set the Files of Type Dropdown to PDF.
6. Load your Comic Life PDF into Kindle Create.



7. Your book appears opens in Kindle Create



7. Save your project.
Main Menu → File → Save Project



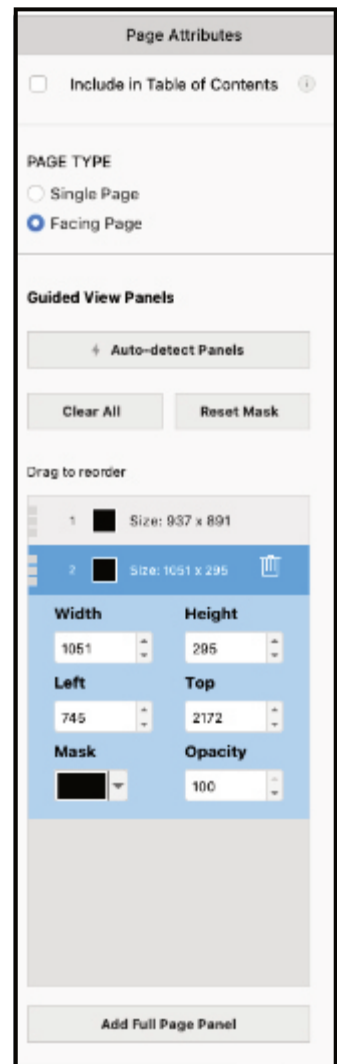
CONVERT YOUR BOOK



Here are the steps to convert your print book to the Kindle eBook Comic format. This doesn't take much time and can be fun to do.

1. Click on a page
2. Add a Full Page Panel
3. Frame the panel you just added around the graphic you want to display.
4. Preview the page.
5. Fix any issues.
6. Add panels until you have the page completed
7. Proceed to the Next Page.

Note: You can use the Auto-Detect Panels when you start a new page. This works well if you have separate illustrations on the page.



1. CLICK ON A PAGE

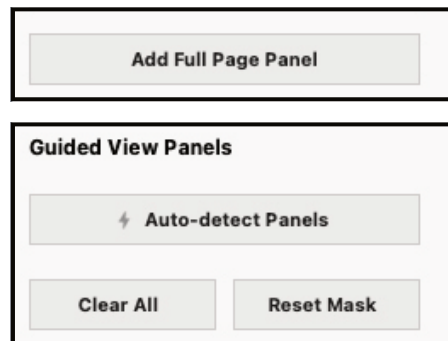
Select a page from the Left Hand Panel.



2. ADD A FULL PAGE PANEL

Click the "Add Full Page Panel" button.

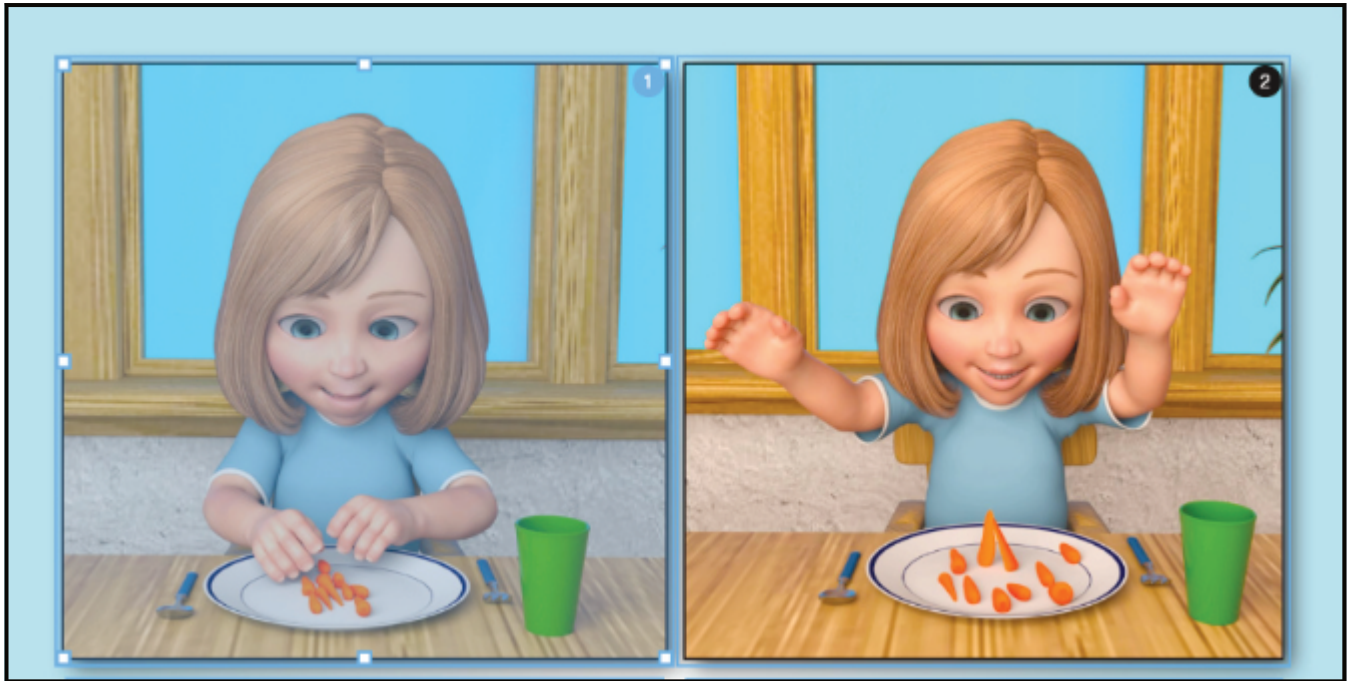
Note: If you use the Auto-detect Panels button, use it when you start working on a new page. Auto-detect will erase existing panels on a page.



3. FRAME THE PANEL AROUND THE GRAPHIC YOU WANT TO DISPLAY.

Use the White Control Points to position the panel over the image.

Note: The number in the black circle designates the panel number.



You control the panel display order, color, and opacity from the Right-Hand control panel.

Note: Drag the panels to change the display order.

Tip: Play around with the Mask Color and Opacity. You won't see these results until you preview the page.

You can also change the Page Type for individual pages.

PAGE TYPE

☐ Single Page

☒ Facing Page

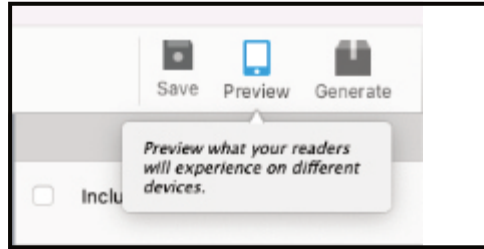
Drag to reorder

1	Size: 937 x 891
2	Size: 1051 x 295 🗑️

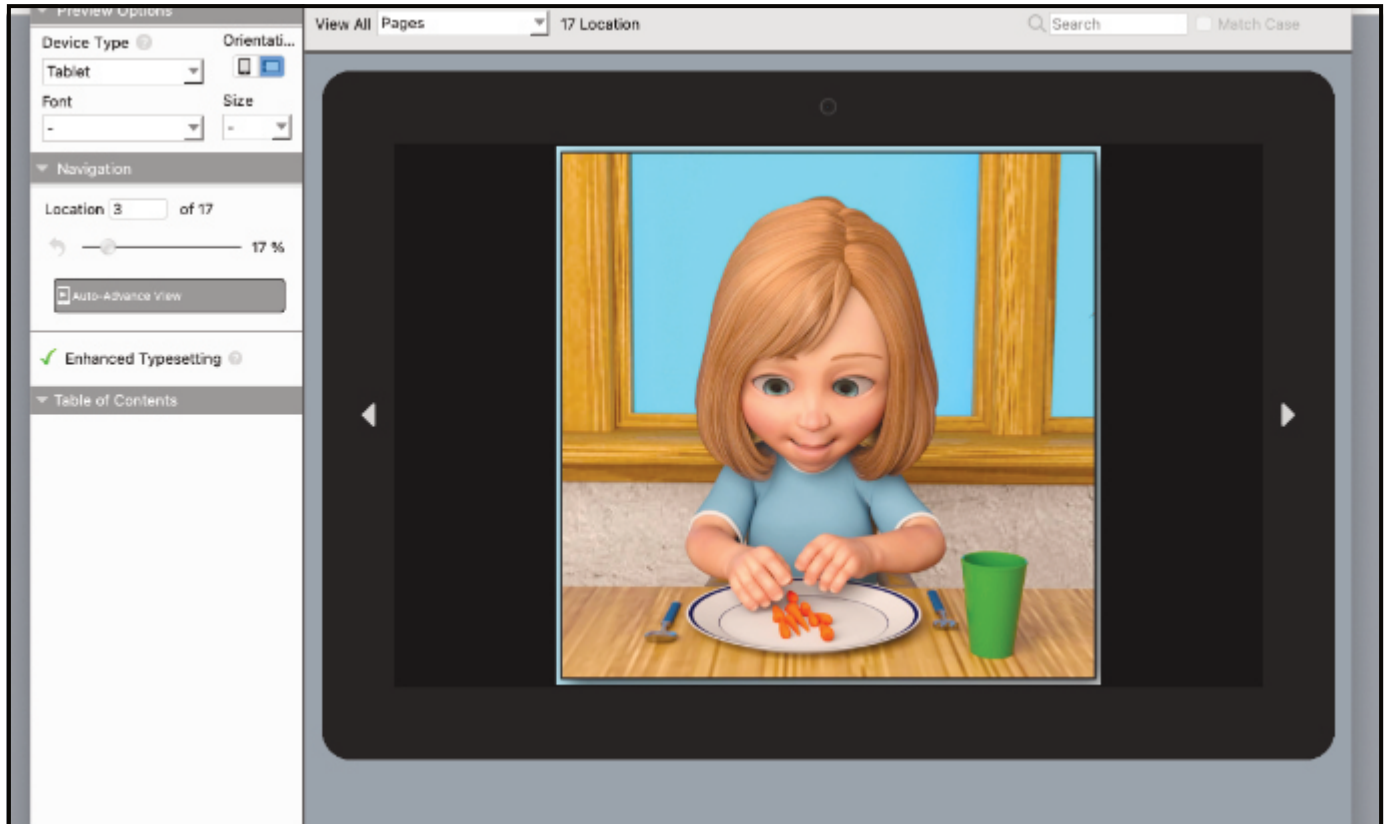
Width 1051 Left 745 Mask 	Height 295 Top 2172 Opacity 100
--	--

4. PREVIEW THE PAGE

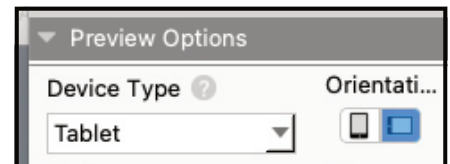
Click the Preview button located in the upper right-hand corner of the Kindle Create program.



The Previewer opens, and you can step through the frames of your book.



Try out different formats by changing the orientation and the device type.



5. FIX ANY PROBLEMS

Close the print previewer and correct any issues. Keep testing and trying new things.

TIP: Don't forget to save often!

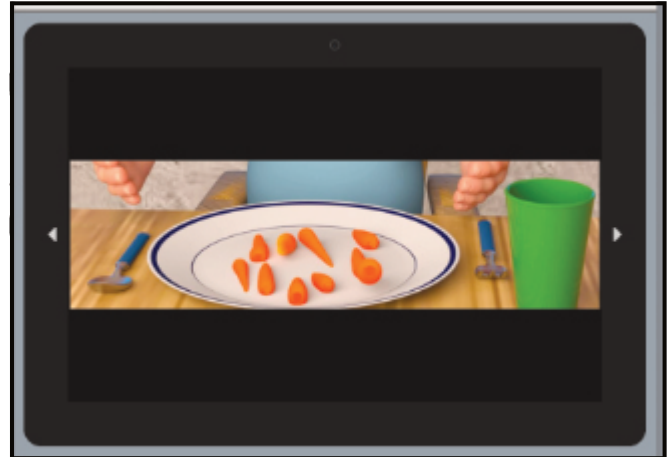
6. ADD PANELS UNTIL YOU HAVE THE PAGE COMPLETED

Add panels until the page works the way you want.

You can open or finish the page with a full page image. This can help orient (or remind) the reader of what is happening in the illustration.

Not all pages need to have multiple panels.

Your intuition and doing what feels right is your best guide to creating panels and how they are displayed.



7. PROCEED TO THE NEXT PAGE

One down, thirty-one to go!
Save your project!

8. EXPORT YOUR EBOOK

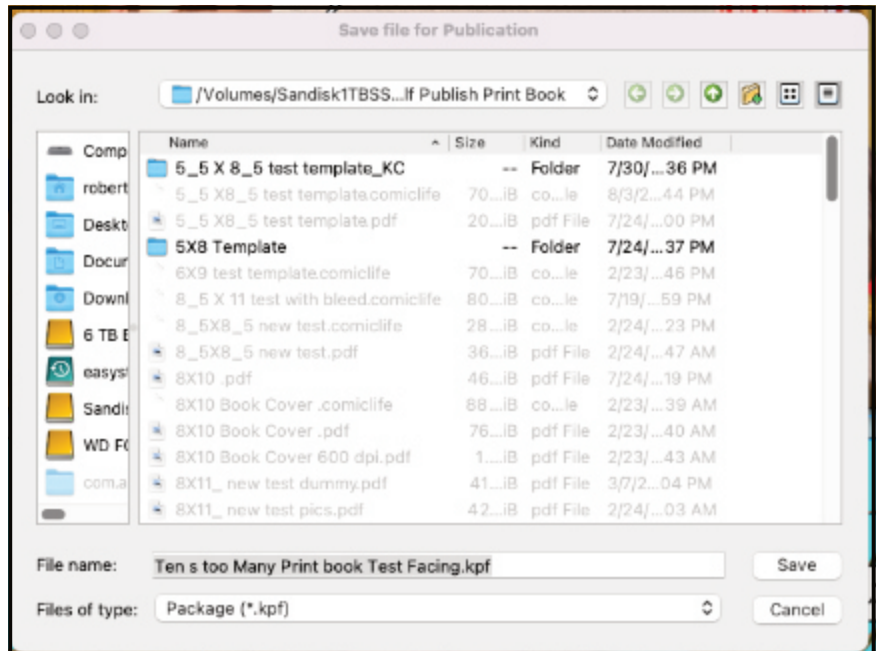


You're going to export your project to a publishable (KPF) file.

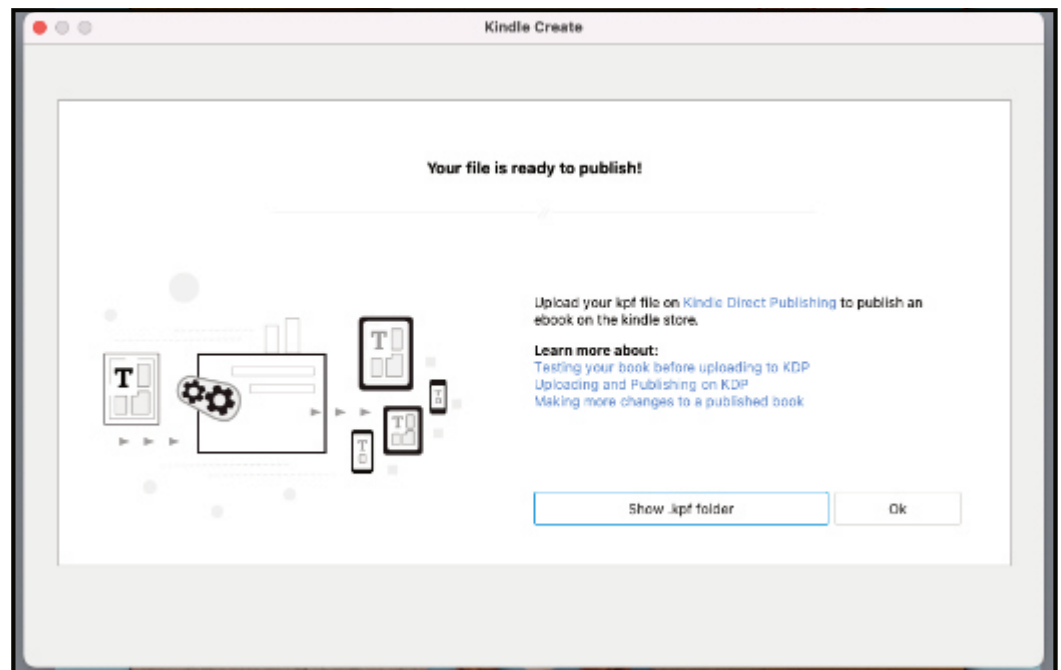
1. Click the Generate icon.



2. Save the KPF package file.



3. Your file is ready to publish!

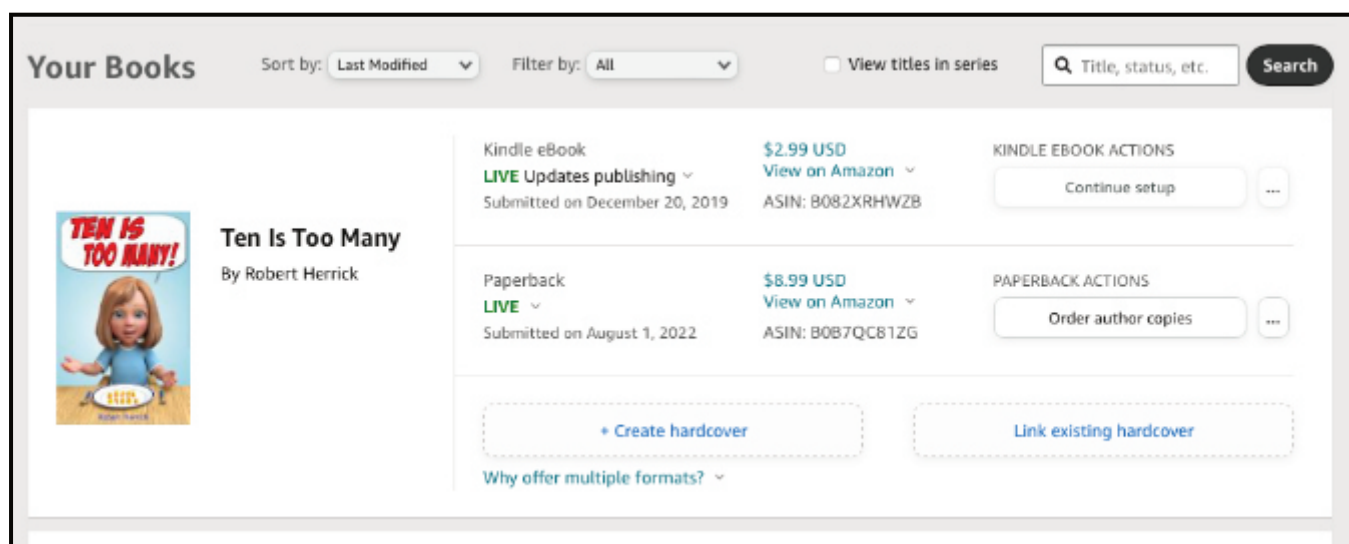


Publish Your eBook on Kindle



You're in the home stretch!

1. Log in to your Kindle Account
2. Locate your book on the home page.
3. Click the "+ Create eBook" button.



Most of the information from the print book will be duplicated in your eBook information.

Publishing an eBook on Kindle is almost identical to publishing a print book.



IMPORT YOUR EBOOK KPF INTO KINDLE

DIGITAL RIGHTS MANAGEMENT (DRM)

4. Set DRM to Yes

UPLOAD EBOOK MANUSCRIPT

5. Click the “Upload eBook Manuscript to load the KDF file you exported from Kindle Create.

Kindle eBook Details
✓ Complete

Kindle eBook Content
✓ Complete

Kindle eBook Pricing
✓ Complete

Manuscript

Please read our [KDP Content Guidelines](#) and upload a manuscript containing interior content for your Kindle eBook. [View supported file types](#) ▾

Digital Rights Management (DRM)

Enable DRM on this Kindle eBook. [How is my Kindle eBook affected by DRM?](#) ▾

☒ Yes

☐ No

Recommended formats for Kindle eBooks: docx, EPUB and KPF. [See a full list here](#). Note: Starting August 1, 2021, we will no longer support files in MOBI format when publishing new reflowable eBooks or updating the content for previously published eBooks. [Learn more](#).

i Use Kindle Create to transform your manuscript to an eBook with professional book themes, images, and Table of Contents. [Click here to download for free](#).

Upload eBook manuscript

✓ **Manuscript "Ten s too Many eBook Comic Layout.kpf" uploaded successfully!**

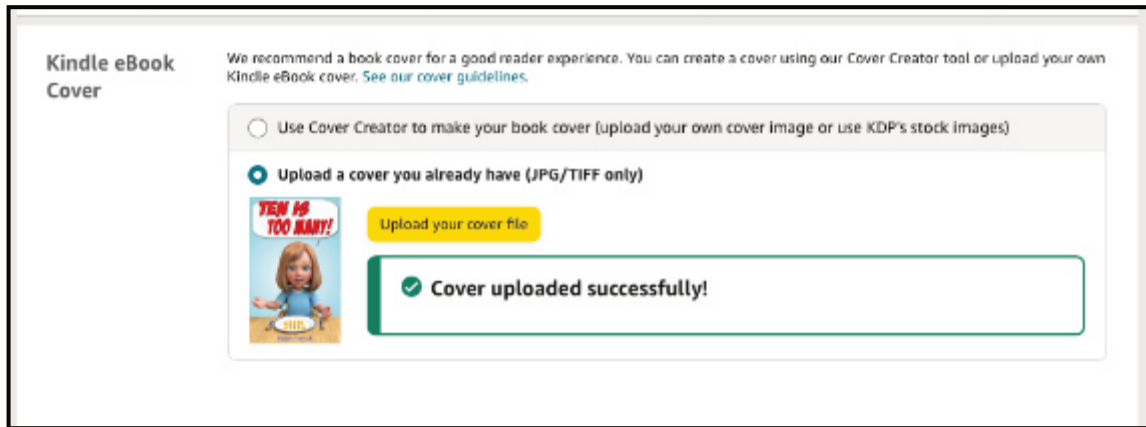
File processing complete. Manuscript check complete.

✓ **Spell Check**

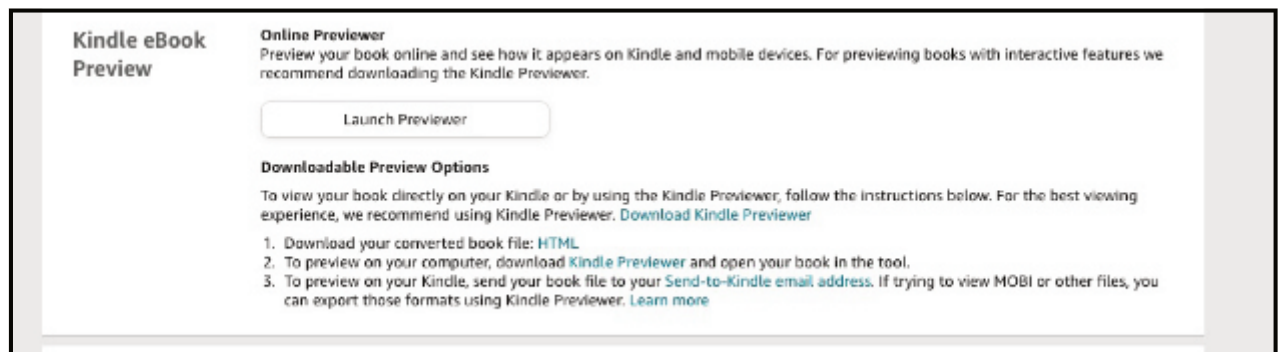
There are no spelling errors.

KINDLE EBOOK COVER

6. Upload the Thumbnail Cover you created earlier.



7. Launch Previewer



IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM PREVIEWING YOUR EBOOK ON KINDLE PREVIEWER AND ONLINE

Guided Panels MAY NOT display correctly on Kindle Previewer or the Online previewer.

This happened when I published my “Ten Is Too Many” eBook. I am only able to see the Guided Panels in Kindle Create.

The published eBook works correctly in the Kindle Readers and Viewers.

So, don't panic if your book isn't working correctly in the previewers.

REGARDING ISBNs FOR EBOOKS



ISBNs for eBooks are optional. The main advantage of adding an ISBN number to an eBook is that it looks more professional and is easier for retailers to locate. Do what you think is best for your eBook.

The screenshot shows the 'Kindle eBook ISBN' form. It has a title 'Kindle eBook ISBN' and a subtitle 'ISBN (Optional)'. Below the subtitle, it says 'Kindle eBooks are not required to have an ISBN. What is an ISBN?'. There is a text input field for the ISBN. Below that is a text input field for the 'Publisher (Optional)'. At the bottom, there are three buttons: '< Back to Details', 'Save as Draft', and 'Save and Continue' (highlighted in yellow). Below the 'Save and Continue' button, it says 'Next step: Pricing'.

EBOOK PRICING

KDP SELECT ENROLLMENT

Amazon Kindle offers a program to market your eBook exclusively on Amazon Kindle. Since the Comic View version will only work on Kindle readers and viewers, this might be a good option for you. However, you must decide if that is what is best for your book.

Read the Kindle Select program documentation thoroughly before enrolling.

The screenshot shows the 'Kindle eBook Pricing' page. It has three tabs: 'Kindle eBook Details' (Complete), 'Kindle eBook Content' (Complete), and 'Kindle eBook Pricing' (In Progress...). The 'Kindle eBook Pricing' tab is active. It shows 'KDP Select Enrollment' with a 'Maximize My Royalties with KDP Select (Optional)' section. Below that is a 'Territories' section with a dropdown menu set to 'All territories (worldwide rights)'. At the bottom is a 'Primary marketplace' section with a dropdown menu set to 'Amazon.com'.

LINKS:

Self-Publishing and KDP Select: https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/select

KDP Select: https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G200798990

PRICING, ROYALTY AND DISTRIBUTION

You have two royalty options to choose from. Read the KDP documentation on eBook Royalties. (see link) to determine which rate is suitable for your book.

8. Enter your eBook price in the List Price to see the costs and royalty.
 - Most self-published picture books sell for \$2.99

Pricing, royalty, and distribution

Select a royalty plan and set your Kindle eBook list prices below
☒ 35% ☐ 70%

Your book file size after conversion is 7.14 MB.

Marketplace	List Price	Delivery	Rate	Royalty
Amazon.com	\$ 2.99 USD Must be \$1.99-\$200.00 All marketplaces are based on this price	\$0.00	35%	\$1.05
		\$1.07	70%	\$1.34
The following list prices were converted based on the previous price you entered				
Amazon.in	₹ 239 INR Must be ₹69-₹10999 Based on Amazon.com	₹202 without IN GST	35%	₹71
Amazon.co.uk	£ 2.49 GBP	£0.00	35%	£0.87

LINK: KDP eBook Royalties: https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G200644210

BOOK LENDING

9. Read the Book Lending information to decide if it is something you want to allow.

Book Lending

Allow Kindle Book Lending (Optional)
 Allow your customers to lend your Kindle eBook after purchasing it to their friends and family for a duration of 14 days. [Learn more about Kindle Book Lending.](#)
☐ Allow lending for this book

Terms & Conditions
 It can take up to 72 hours for your title to be available for purchase on Amazon.
 By clicking Publish below, I confirm that I have all rights necessary to make the content I am uploading available for marketing, distribution and sale in each territory I have indicated above, and that I am in compliance with the [KDP Terms and Conditions](#).

< Back to Content

Save as Draft

Publish Your Kindle eBook

10. PUBLISH YOUR EBOOK!

Congratulations!
Your eBook is Published!

The Next Steps

MARKETING YOUR BOOK

Marketing your book is the most challenging part of being a self-published author. It is also your biggest expense.

Set a marketing budget for your book. Understand the costs of any marketing campaign before you commit to it. Remember that marketing needs to bring in more money than you spend on it. Make a plan. Monitor your costs. Be realistic. Don't spend more than you can afford.

BOOKSTORES AND LIBRARIES

If you want to get your book into libraries, you should do a few more things to make it easier for librarians to order your book.

- Put your book on IngramSpark
- Get a Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN) by creating an account in the PrePub Book Link. (See links below.) The LCCN is placed on your copyright page.
- Get a cataloging-in-publication (CIP) data block that you put on your copyright page.
 - NOTE: an LCCN and CIP are not required. However, you should get them if you want to present your book to stores and libraries as professionally published.

Once published/distributed on IngramSpark, your book will be available for bookstores and libraries to order. Some local stores might, but some have a policy of not ordering self-published books.

OFFSET PRINTING

If you get a big order (you have the purchase order in hand), look into getting a local printer to print copies on an offset press. The minimum order size is usually 1000 copies.

LINKS:

IngramSpark: www.ingramspark.com

Library of Congress (LOC) PrePub Book Link: <https://www.loc.gov/publish/prepubbooklink/about/index.html>

LOC PCN Program: <https://www.loc.gov/publish/pcn/about/process.html>

LOC PCN Author User Guide: <https://www.loc.gov/publish/prepubbooklink/author-self-publisher-user-guide/>

How to Get Your Book into Public Libraries: <https://www.authorlearningcenter.com/publishing/distribution-sales/w/libraries/7658/how-to-get-your-book-into-public-libraries-and-why-it-matters>

CIP blocks for Independent Publishers: www.cipblock.com

The Business of Self- Publishing

The Best Self-Publishing Advice: Never print more copies than you can give away!



If you jumped to this section first, congratulations!

If not, PAY ATTENTION!

IT'S A BUSINESS

Odds are you would like your book to generate income for you. You put a lot of work into it, and want some reward for your efforts.

You need to treat this like the business that it is.

- Set your budget. Stick to it!
- Know your costs before you start.
 - Production
 - Art, Editing, Design, Layout, Development Costs
 - Marketing / Advertising
 - Shipping / Returns
 - Legal - Copyright, Contracts, Distribution agreements
 - Equipment, Software, Internet
 - Taxes, Business Licenses

USE PRINT-ON-DEMAND

Use POD when you are first starting. Order a few author copies and test market your books. You might only break even on your POD copies.

Trust me, it's better to spend \$50 on test marketing than to have \$5,000 worth of books sitting unsold in your garage.

The time to get your books printed at a local printer is you have the purchase order in hand for a thousand (or more) copies.

FYI: A thousand copies is usually the minimum order for a local offset printer.

The Myths of Self-Publishing

WHAT YOU ARE THINKING	TRANSLATION
• I need to place a big order to keep the price down. • The book will sell itself. • Artists will illustrate my book for a percentage of the profits. • I am going to make a lot of money. • A publishing company will see my book and want to publish it.	• I want to fill my home with books I need to sell. • No! It won't. You are going to have to market and promote your book. • Nope. • You might. But spend money like you are giving your book away for free. • Unlikely. This will only happen if your book is successful. So, why would you want to give them 80% of the profit?

I WANT TO SELF-PUBLISH

There are a lot of reasons that people want to self-publish their books. These include everything from making a legacy book for their children and grandchildren to taking charge of your book's destiny.

The good news is that self-publishing has changed significantly over the past ten years.

The old adage, "never print more books than you can give away", is still true. But eBooks and Print-On-Demand (POD) books have changed the game. Creating your book and making it available online is very affordable, especially if you do everything yourself.

The hardest and most expensive part of self-publishing a successful book isn't creating or publishing the book. **The hardest part is marketing and selling the book.**

I don't want to discourage you from self-publishing, but I want you to go into it with your eyes open.

WHY I WROTE THIS BOOK

Self-publishing a picture book is a big commitment.

As a self-publisher, I'm tired of "full-service" companies that offer to assist self-publishers and charge thousands of dollars for things that people can easily do themselves.

Tip: If you are considering having them produce your book, take a look at what the final cost per copy of those books will be. Adding extra dollars to the cost of the book is money you won't see. Also, make sure you keep all your rights.

There are also companies that will handle the distribution. But they want a percentage of your sales. They don't have any special access to distributors. You can place the book with any distributor.

In the U.S., most of your sales will come from Amazon and IngramSpark. So why give up part of your profits?

As you learned in this book, you can create your own illustrations, and format, and publish your book.

MORE ADVICE

- Be realistic about your time, budget and goals.
- Publish your book for the joy of creating something you put your heart and soul into and can be proud of.
- Don't count on future sales to cover the costs. It's like gambling. Only spend what you can afford to lose.
- You might not make money with your first book. Make sure you have the resources to create additional books.
- Once you self-publish your first book, you will have the skills to create many more.
- There are many factors in a book's success that are out of your control.
- Traditional or self-publishing is not a retirement plan. Don't quit your day job.
- Do not count sales to friends and relatives. When making decisions about how many copies you can sell.

HIRING HELP

If you have bigger plans, you can do the other jobs yourself, or you can find people to help. If you do, **make sure you have a contract in place with them, so there is no question as to who owns the rights to your work.**

RIGHTS

As the creator of your book, you have a lot of different rights that you can license to other people. These include movie rights, foreign rights, toy rights, etc. These are worth the money! Always talk to an attorney before you sign away any rights to your intellectual properties.

Go Forth and Publish!

I wish you the best of luck in your self-publishing journey.

Please tell others about this book and how they can get it for free at NoDrawingRequired.com.

I hope this book has helped you save money and get your picture book published.

If you have any questions or you've found this book to be helpful, please email me at Robert@NoDrawingRequired.com

If you have any complaints, send them to me too. I want this to be a go-to resource for self-published children's book authors, and I can't do that without your help.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Regards,

Robert Herrick
Aug 2022

“It's not about money or connections. It's the willingness to outwork and outlearn everyone when it comes to your business. And if it fails, you learn from what happened and do a better job next time.”

— Mark Cuban