

Bringing the Garden, the Wood, and the Characters
to life in Story Illustrations.

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Drawing of Oak tree



Oak tree in winter



Oak tree in autumn



Oak tree in summer

I start with a sketch in this case it is a painting of the tree, this is the original story board for the large painting for book cover 1, in the garden, it is 25.5 in by 19.5 in.

I put in fence line, then I go to paint in watercolour, I start by putting in the sky, paint in the meadow behind then outline the tree, detail the bark in a darker brown, put in the chestnut brown fence, swing, and bird table. When the tree is dry then I paint it in with lighter brown over the detail. I gradually fill in the rest of the details over a few days, when the paintings are smaller versions or vignettes, I will do more copies as this is a rather large piece of work and takes a few weeks to complete and dry out. I do one image then I take several photographs go to next level of detail put in autumn-coloured leaves, then take more photos different angles, then when that dries, I will paint in the individual leaves for spring and summer and then again take more photos with different lighting and then I add the owls.

This storyboard is then used as the backdrop to the smaller vignette paintings of the characters then being positioned to create the stories. It is also the book cover for Book 1 In the Garden.



These two illustrations are started as a sketch of the herb bed in Story 5 Book 2 called In the garden.

In photo 1, It is sketched, and half painted.

In photo 2, It has finished being painted.

The Animals, insects, birds, wildlife, vegetation, woodland pictures all have two pictures painted each. One a Vignette to introduce it as a feature then the other the same picture as a character added to the storyboards creating the stories.