

DECEMBER 2016 BEHIND THE CURTAIN JOURNAL ENTRY

ELEVEN DRAFTS DOWN, ONE TO GO

BY CHILDREN'S AUTHOR JENNIFER PHILLIPS

I'm going to make it! All year, I've been doing the [12x12 challenge](#) where participants write 12 rough picture book drafts over 12 months.

I have my last draft ready to go. It's called The Weather Wish, about a girl who has to do some quick and creative problem-solving after her wish actually comes true.

My 11 drafts from the other months were of varying quality and need for revision. The goal **wasn't** polished work but just to create and collaborate with others. **Here's** a bit about what I developed over the year (many with working titles):

- **Nellie's** Nutty Knittables – a **girl's** yarn bombing romp turns the town upside down
- I Can – a girl wrestles with her disabilities
- Scissors Rock Paper – an unlikely friendship helps the main characters break out of the mold to find their **life's** purpose
- The Girl Who Cried Help (Too Many Times) – a **girl's** imagination lands her in hot water when jealousy over her new sibling gets the best of her
- Dad Can Live in the Back Yard – a boy brainstorms how to get a cat and keep his highly allergic dad
- Sounds of Friendship – a porcupine wants to be left alone until he discovers two other misunderstood forest creatures who also like to sing, whoop, hum, chirp and be noisy
- The Creature from Below – three siblings encounter a strange little creature popping up from underground while exploring **Grandpa's** farm
- Izzy Takes Charge of the Day – a string of mishaps threatens to ruin a young **girl's** day
- Slug Salad – children explore humane ways of co-existing with **"creepy"** creatures
- Jessica – a girl and her bird navigate the circle of life
- The Pole – a kindergartener has quite the first week of school

Next month, I'll share more of what I've learned about writing picture books from this experience.

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