

ILLUSTRATOR'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The following are items, adapted from the National SCBWI Bulletin, that illustrators should put on their New Year's Resolution list:

1. Create a finished series of illustrations of the same character in different poses and situations, showing different emotions.
2. Sign up for an art class (if you haven't already done so) to touch up your skills or learn new ones.
3. Try a new style. If your work is usually light and humorous, try something moody, dramatic or high contrast.
4. Do visual warm-ups at the beginning of each session, playing with line, form, color and composition.
5. Try a new illustration medium
6. Go through your own work, published or not, and find images that please you completely. Display them where they can inspire you.
7. Take an hour each month to browse through the children/teen book sections in libraries and book stores.
8. Make a sample 32 page picture book dummy for a favorite fairy tale or children's book.
9. Make an ongoing list, tacked to the wall of your studio area, of all the things you remember about the time of life you're illustrating for.
10. Start carrying a sketch book and use it.
11. Obtain a copy of the 2007 Children's Writers and Illustrators Market. Read articles and browse through publishers' lists.
12. Make colored copies of a postcard or flier with examples of your best work; mail it to twenty art directors.
13. Mark your calendar and follow up with new samples every 3-6 months.
14. Send your work to editors and agents at conferences who will review and comment on your work.
15. Get a list of the latest Caldecott and other award-winning books and study them.
16. Do an honest evaluation of your own work. How can you improve it?
17. Attend the SCBWI Chapter's meetings, focusing on the illustrator events.