

In preparation for the writing process of this book, I thought of specific forms of entertainment that had a lasting impact on my memory as a child. The few that came to mind were *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Lorax*, *Pocahontas*, and *Bridge to Terabithia*. *Alice in Wonderland* taught that friends closest to you can be found in the most unprecedented of places and know truths that are hidden from your gathered understanding. *The Lorax* and *Pocahontas* tell of individuals who protect and value those who do not have a voice. *Bridge to Terabithia* inspires its audience to welcome new perspectives into their lives. Being open to different ways of thinking can spark moments of joy in previously bleak times. It also taught that it is best to be nice to everyone despite the manner in which they treat you. One will never truly know all that occurs in another person's life and how they might probably be projecting internalized insecurities, fear, anger, and pain onto others. Maintaining this perspective will reduce the hatred outbursts that occur, as efforts to understand the reasons behind certain actions increase. Instead the person, while making sure that abuse is not happening, can show their support and willingness to hear what the person is enduring. Considering these lessons, I realized that I wanted to create a book that would envelop these ideals and further expand the minds of children about matters outside of themselves.

Children are at a stage in life where all stimulation and information is absorbed and stored. Boundaries are nonexistent as they are naive to any societal structure. Therefore, all that is taken in is impactful of the individuals they will become. In light of such an impressionable state I feel that it is imperative to integrate lessons that will establish a positive outlook on themselves and those in their vicinity. Molding their minds to be sympathetic and accepting of other peoples' circumstances will lead to the creation of a generation free from prejudice and

dated mindsets. To aid in this effort I would like my book to focus on opening the minds of its readers to all of the possibilities that exist without their knowledge. I believe that children are innately good and genuinely wish every living being well; and that they would continue to do so throughout their lives had they not been exposed to ideals that negatively feed their ego and result in attitudes that hurt others.

In terms of the scientific aspect of the story, I was uncertain of a specific topic so I let the theme, that I wanted the book to embody, unfold into the study of animals and what they are like in their personal lives. The book tells of a rabbit named Charlie that leaves home to explore all that lies beyond the trees before its home. Though the parents might not appreciate the fact that Charlie disobeys the mother's rules, I hope that the child will come to learn that sometimes it is essential, for their personal growth, to leave the opinions of their parents behind and go explore what lies beyond their own trees. Upon Charlie's first encounter with Leila, Charlie learns that the animals, though physically different, obtained multiple relationships that were particular to their own circumstances, and yet immensely similar to those that Charlie had been raised with at home. These similarities pertain to friendly and playful bonds between the sibling and parent-child relationships. Ultimately, Charlie's stray from what was known led to the educating of the entire family and a more allied community. Additionally, I wanted to leave out the use of pronouns. Each character is addressed by their name. I hope that this will in some way reduce the pressure for children to conform to a specific gender by acknowledging that it is possible to go about life without resonating with one.

Had the book been illustrated, it would have depicted various detailed images of colorful spaces that well-represent a forest setting; all the while introducing each animal as it partakes in

their daily activities. The book creates an interactive world for the children to spend time analyzing in between the grasses and branches to see what other creatures could be hidden from one's initial glance. By doing so, the book encourages the reader to inquire upon what each critter does and seek to further understand the reasonings behind the actions that enable their survival. The colors used would be drawn from the natural hues and elements observable in forests. They would be a mixture of calm and bright tones to spark sensations of peace and excitement within the readers. This will add to the overall need to turn the page into a new corner of the forest. The audience targeted by this book would preferably be aged between first through third grade, as it seeks to be educational. The time spent with each animal is brief, yet jam packed with information to prevent boredom; and recently, to appeal to the attention deficit prevalent amongst younger audiences. The simple language allows for the understanding by larger audiences and eases the learning to read process. Apart from being helpful in these regards it could also act as a replacement for the frequent visits to the zoo. By providing a simulation through which the children can experience and learn about animals and their habits without subjecting them to an enclosed space. The children can learn that the animals, like themselves, have their own niches and deserve to live freely in those areas. Learning to care for beings with less of a voice will make the children more sympathetic and sensitive to the experiences of those they come into contact with in life. Ultimately, the desire to live as a unified force that respects everyone's wishes and rights will lead to a world with less prejudice. To improve the reliance on books and virtual replication for learning about animals, the book could be made into a series in which other habitats are studied and discussed.

This process has taught me that writing for a particular audience comes with its own personal factors to keep in mind to ensure that the book is successful. Children's needs, varied by age, seek different experiences from reading. Whether that be to escape into an imaginative world, to feel represented by the media, to feel less alone, to discover more about the world they live in, or to see aspects that are missing in their lives reflected through other outlets. Each of these, or a select few, will be chosen and integrated into the storyline. The combination allows for the author's personality to come through, whilst simultaneously catering to the needs of the piece's demographic. Altogether, the intentions and information presented will be well-received and appreciated by the masses.