

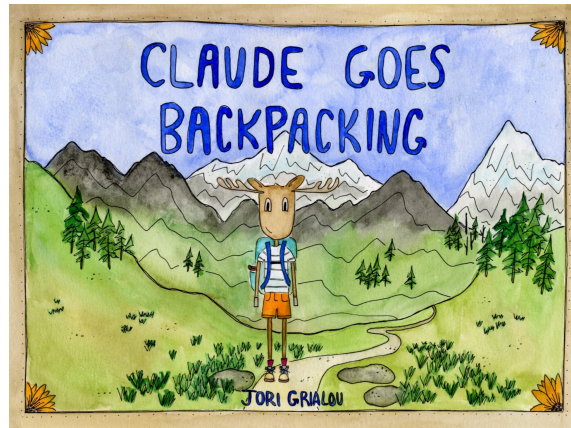
Moose Adventures: Writing and Illustrating a Picture Book 2024

Jori Grialou, Class of 2026

My project this summer was learning how to write and illustrate a picture book. I began by reading picture books, some from my childhood and others that were recommended to me, to explore the genre and gain a better understanding of how they are written. I also looked for what aspects of books I found appealing and what I wanted to avoid for my own project. Over time the idea of my main character, Claude, a young curious moose came to me and I was able to begin creating some concept art for the project. This concept art as well as inspiration from my own childhood experiences with backpacking, helped me develop a storyline. I wrote my story and then created illustrations to pair with the writing.

Children's books are often written with a pattern of conflict and resolution. I used this format to help structure my book. The conflict is focused on the effects of changing landscapes due to wildfires. Claude is met with a lot of disappointment when he learns that some of his favorite parts of the trip are changed because of a recent wildfire. Eventually, he is able to notice the positive changes that fire makes to the landscape, but these changes are bittersweet because of how destructive the wildfire feels to him.

Throughout the project, I thought about how my story and illustrations would be engaged with by kids. Along with help from my faculty mentors, I also had the opportunity to share my project with a local children's book author and illustrator, Charlotte Agell. She gave me helpful advice about the process and also insight into making my story engaging for its intended audience. The end result of my project is a 32-page book titled "Claude Goes Backpacking," which I hope to publish and eventually share with kids.



Faculty Mentors: Professor Brock Clarke and Professor James Mullen

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