Honor and fame! This is what my parents wished for me. So they named me Spartacus.
“It is often said that the first experience a child has with art and literature comes in the form of a picture book. If that is indeed true, young readers holding on to a book published by Creative Editions are on their way to an appreciation of how the arts can enhance and inform their future.” – Jerry Pinkney, 2010 Caldecott Medal Winner

Humbling words indeed, Mr. Pinkney, but haven’t you heard?

“Picture Books No Longer a Staple for Children,” shouts a headline in The New York Times. “The picture book, a mainstay of children’s literature with its lavish illustrations, cheerful colors and large print, has been fading away.” Studies will no doubt soon confirm the uselessness of this once-proud medium. If Johnny isn’t reading Harry Potter by age four, they will conclude, Harvard and a job on Wall Street can be all but forgotten. To hear some tell it, picture books are now about as relevant as buggy whips.

An appreciation of how the arts can enhance and inform a child’s future? Really, Mr. Pinkney, who needs it? Who needs a third-generation, family-owned publishing company dedicated to the fine art of picture book making?

The answer to these questions may in fact be no one, but when my grandfather started Creative in 1932, alongside the Minnesota River, no one might have imagined a need for rubber stamps, Pla-Boards, or leather-bound books, either.

Much has changed about our company since 1932. But much remains the same. We are still in Mankato, Minnesota, next to the river. The images of our original rubber stamps still adorn many of our company’s business papers. We continue to publish books recognized the world over for their beauty and enduring educational value. And we remain dedicated to producing picture books that both teach and inspire.

Like Jerry Pinkney, I believe in the unique magic and enduring ability of picture books to color a child’s imagination. No matter what their age. No matter what the greater public’s sentiment.

I trust that you believe, too.

– Tom Peterson, Publisher
CREATIVE EDITIONS CLASSICS

Classic picture books combine vibrant and ingenious artwork with captivating stories and compelling themes. Featured below and on the following two pages are eight of Creative Editions’ most popular and best-selling picture books—some of the books we believe are true classics.

The Frog Who Wanted to See the Sea by Guy Billout

Rose Blanche by Christophe Gallaz & Roberto Innocenti
Erika’s Story by Ruth Vander Zee & Roberto Innocenti

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams Bianco & Monique Felix

The Illustrated Treasury of Fairy Tales by various authors and illustrators
I Hate to Read! by Rita Marshall & Etienne Delessert

Moon Theater by Etienne Delessert

Black Cat Bone by J. Patrick Lewis & Gary Kelley
Black Cat Bone  Legend credits his success to a midnight pact at a crossroads, but what is the real story of bluesman Robert Johnson?
Author: J. Patrick Lewis
Illustrator: Gary Kelley
978-1-56846-194-6 $24.95
Interest level: Age 10 and up Page count: 48
Trim size: 8-1/2” x 12” Color illustrations

Erika’s Story  A Jewish woman recounts how her mother was able to spare her from the horrors of the Holocaust as an infant.
Author: Ruth Vander Zee
Illustrator: Roberto Innocenti
978-1-56846-176-2 $18.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up Page count: 24
Trim size: 10” x 9-1/2” Color illustrations

The Frog Who Wanted to See the Sea  A curious but timid frog named Alice leaves her comfortable surroundings behind to embark on the adventure of a lifetime.
Author/Illustrator: Guy Billout
978-1-56846-188-5 $18.95
Interest level: Age 7 and up Page count: 32
Trim size: 10-3/4” x 9-1/2” Color illustrations

I Hate to Read!  When Victor Dickens, a boy who hates to read, is pulled away from watching TV by a crocodile in a white coat, he discovers many zany adventures in a book!
Author: Rita Marshall
Illustrator: Etienne Delessert
978-1-56846-005-5 $19.95
Interest level: Age 4 and up Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-1/2” x 12” Color illustrations

The Illustrated Treasury of Fairy Tales  Ten beloved fairy tales are brought to life by world-renowned artists.
Author: various / Illustrator: various
978-1-56846-144-1 $29.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up Page count: 352
Trim size: 7-1/4” x 11” Color illustrations and photographs

Moon Theater  A young stagehand must complete a host of tasks before the moon can take center stage in the theater of night.
Author/Illustrator: Etienne Delessert
978-1-56846-208-0 $17.95
Interest level: Age 4 and up Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-1/2” x 11” Color illustrations

Rose Blanche  A young German girl watches as the streets of her town fill with soldiers and tanks. Then, one day, she follows a truck into the woods and discovers a terrible secret.
Author: Christophe Gallaz
Illustrator: Roberto Innocenti
978-1-56846-189-2 $19.95
Interest level: Age 7 and up Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-1/8” x 11” Color illustrations

The Velveteen Rabbit  Whether made of wood, metal, or cloth, all toys have dreams. Creative Editions proudly reissues this tale of a stuffed Rabbit who longs to be real.
Author: Margery Williams Bianco
Illustrator: Monique Felix
978-1-56846-217-2 $17.95
Interest level: Age 6 and up Page count: 40
Trim size: 7-3/4” x 11-3/8” Color illustrations

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The Creative Collection of American Short Stories  This illustrated anthology spans more than a century and a half to introduce readers to 17 American literary gems.
Authors: various
Illustrator: Yan Nascimbene
978-1-56846-202-8 $28.95
Interest level: Age 10 and up
Page count: 272
Trim size: 7-1/4" x 10-1/4" Color illustrations

Skywriting: Poems to Fly  Ever since people have walked, they have dreamed of flying. Prepare to soar in this poetic celebration of dizzying heights and human innovation.
Author: J. Patrick Lewis
Illustrator: Laszlo Kubinyi
978-1-56846-203-5 $17.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 8" x 11" Color illustrations

The Velveteen Rabbit  Whether made of wood, metal, or cloth, all toys have dreams. Creative Editions proudly reissues this tale of a stuffed Rabbit who longs to be real.
Author: Margery Williams Bianco
Illustrator: Monique Felix
978-1-56846-217-2 $17.95
Interest level: Age 6 and up
Page count: 40
Trim size: 7-3/4" x 11-3/8" Color illustrations

A Night on the Range  In this story of Western dreaming, a boy and his faithful dog leave indoor comforts behind for their first sleep-out under the stars.
Author: Aaron Frisch
Illustrator: Chris Sheban
978-1-56846-205-9 $17.95
Interest level: Age 4 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 10-3/4" x 9-1/2" Color illustrations

Spartacus the Spider  Spartacus is a little spider with big web-building problems, but when he devises a way to spin a mighty net, what may be the cost of his triumph?
Author/Illustrator: Etienne Delessert
978-1-56846-213-4 $17.95
Interest level: Age 4 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-1/2" x 12" Color illustrations
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The Adventures of Pinocchio
Author: Carlo Collodi
Illustrator: Roberto Innocenti
978-1-56846-190-8
$29.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 192
Trim size: 8-1/2" x 11-1/4"
Color illustrations

Bear Dance
Author: Jan Wahl
Illustrator: Monique Felix
978-1-56846-199-1
$19.95
Interest level: Age 5 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-1/4" x 12-1/4"
Color illustrations

The Cat Collection
Illustrator: Etienne Delessert
978-1-56846-160-1
$14.95
Interest level: Age 10 and up
Page count: 64
Trim size: 5-1/2" x 8" Color illustrations

The Cat Who Invented Bebop
Author/Illustrator: Marshall Arisman
978-1-56846-152-6
$17.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-1/2" x 11"
Color illustrations

The Cat Who Invented Bebop
Author/Illustrator: Marshall Arisman
978-1-56846-168-7
(Special Edition with DVD)
$21.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-1/2" x 11"
Color illustrations

Christmas Present
Author: Jan Wahl
Illustrator: Michael McCurdy
978-1-56846-165-6
$18.00
Interest level: Age 9 and up
Page count: 64
Trim size: 5" x 7"
Black-and-white illustrations

The Cat Collection
Illustrator: Etienne Delessert
978-1-56846-160-1
$14.95
Interest level: Age 10 and up
Page count: 64
Trim size: 5-1/2" x 8" Color illustrations

Cinderella
Author: Charles Perrault
Illustrator: Roberto Innocenti
978-1-56846-130-4
$17.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 7-3/4" x 11"
Color illustrations

A Coach’s Letter to His Son
Author: Mel Allen
Illustrator: John Thompson
978-1-56846-134-2
$19.95
Interest level: Age 10 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 7-1/4" x 11"
Color illustrations

Dark Fiddler: The Life and Legend of Nicolo Paganini
Author: Aaron Frisch
Illustrator: Gary Kelley
978-1-56846-200-4
$17.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 9" x 12"
Color illustrations

The Enchanted Sled
Author: Jan Wahl
Illustrator: Monique Felix
978-1-56846-187-8
$17.95
Interest level: Age 7 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-3/4" x 10"
Color illustrations

A Farm
Author/Illustrator: Philippe Dumas
978-1-56846-169-4
$29.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 48
Trim size: 17-5/8" x 10-7/8"
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<td>Rita Marshall</td>
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<td>Long Live Music!</td>
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<td>Monique Felix</td>
<td>978-1-56846-075-8</td>
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Nutcracker
Author: E. T. A. Hoffmann
Illustrator: Roberto Innocenti
978-0-15100-227-6
$35.00
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 136
Trim size: 10" x 11-3/8"
Color illustrations

Ocean Deep
Author/Illustrator: Yan Nascimbene
978-1-56846-161-8
$12.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 40
Trim size: 10-5/8" x 8-3/4"
Color illustrations

The Riverbank
Author: Charles Darwin
Illustrator: Fabian Negrin
978-1-56846-207-3
$17.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 8-7/8" x 10-5/8"
Color illustrations

The Seven Dwarfs
Author/Illustrator: Etienne Delessert
978-1-56846-139-7
$17.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 32
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Color illustrations

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Author: J. Patrick Lewis
Illustrator: Christopher Wormell
978-1-56846-175-5
$18.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-1/2" x 12"
Black-and-white illustrations

Tis for Toscana
Author/Illustrator: Gary Kelley
978-1-56846-177-9
$17.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 40
Trim size: 9" x 10-7/8"
Color illustrations

Tuba Lessons
Author: T. C. Bartlett
Illustrator: Monique Felix
978-1-56846-209-7
$17.95
Interest level: All ages
Page count: 32
Trim size: 10-1/2" x 10-1/2"
Color illustrations

The Stolen Smile
Author: J. Patrick Lewis
Illustrator: Gary Kelley
978-1-56846-192-2
$18.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 40
Trim size: 9" x 11"
Color illustrations

Who Killed Cock Robin?
Author/Illustrator: Etienne Delessert
978-1-56846-191-5
$17.95
Interest level: Age 7 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 9" x 12"
Color illustrations

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Author: Hans Christian Andersen
Illustrator: Georges Lemoine
978-0-15200-958-8
$18.00
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 40
Trim size: 8-1/2" x 12"
Color illustrations

VHERSES: A Celebration of Outstanding Women
Author: J. Patrick Lewis
Illustrator: Mark Summers
978-1-56846-185-4
$18.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-7/8" x 10-5/8"
Color illustrations

The Yellow Train
Author: Alistair Higget
Illustrator: François Roca
978-1-56846-128-1
$17.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 40
Trim size: 9" x 13"
Color illustrations

The Wolf Who Loved Music
Author: Christophe Gallaz
Illustrator: Marshall Arisman
978-1-56846-178-6
$17.95
Interest level: Age 8 and up
Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-3/8" x 11"
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Page count: 32
Trim size: 8-7/8" x 10-5/8"
Color illustrations
Poring through the pages of illustrations from the hundreds of books published by The Creative Company is seeing a history of metaphors that have filled the air like a deck of cards, manipulated by a fabulous magician.

*Ray Bradbury*

The tableau for the artwork remains the same throughout: the house and terraced hillside occupy a static position on the pages but grow and morph with each step, providing distinct snapshots to distill different eras and passing generations…. The fascinating and immersive imagery goes to great length to bring [the poems] to life. A stately book that will reward many repeat visits.

*Booklist*

*Review of The House*

*CREATIVE EDITIONS*

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