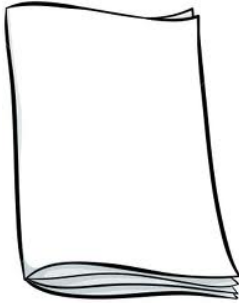


## Writing the Children’s Picture Book Using Dummies or Storyboards

### What is a Dummy?



A dummy is a physical representation or “mock-up” of your story, laid out in such a way that you can see where the text might fit on 32 pages. Most dummies are nine pages stapled together and numbered. You can also use eight pages and leave off the “end papers.” Using this method, you can either (1) jot the text or notes to indicate the text (beginning and ends of lines/paragraphs) or (2) cut out lines/paragraphs of text and tape or glue them to the pages. A good guideline is to think of laying out your story in 14 spreads.

Another version of a dummy is a table with two columns and multiple rows, with each pair representing a spread.

You can then type, write, or cut and paste from your manuscript.

Download a full template:

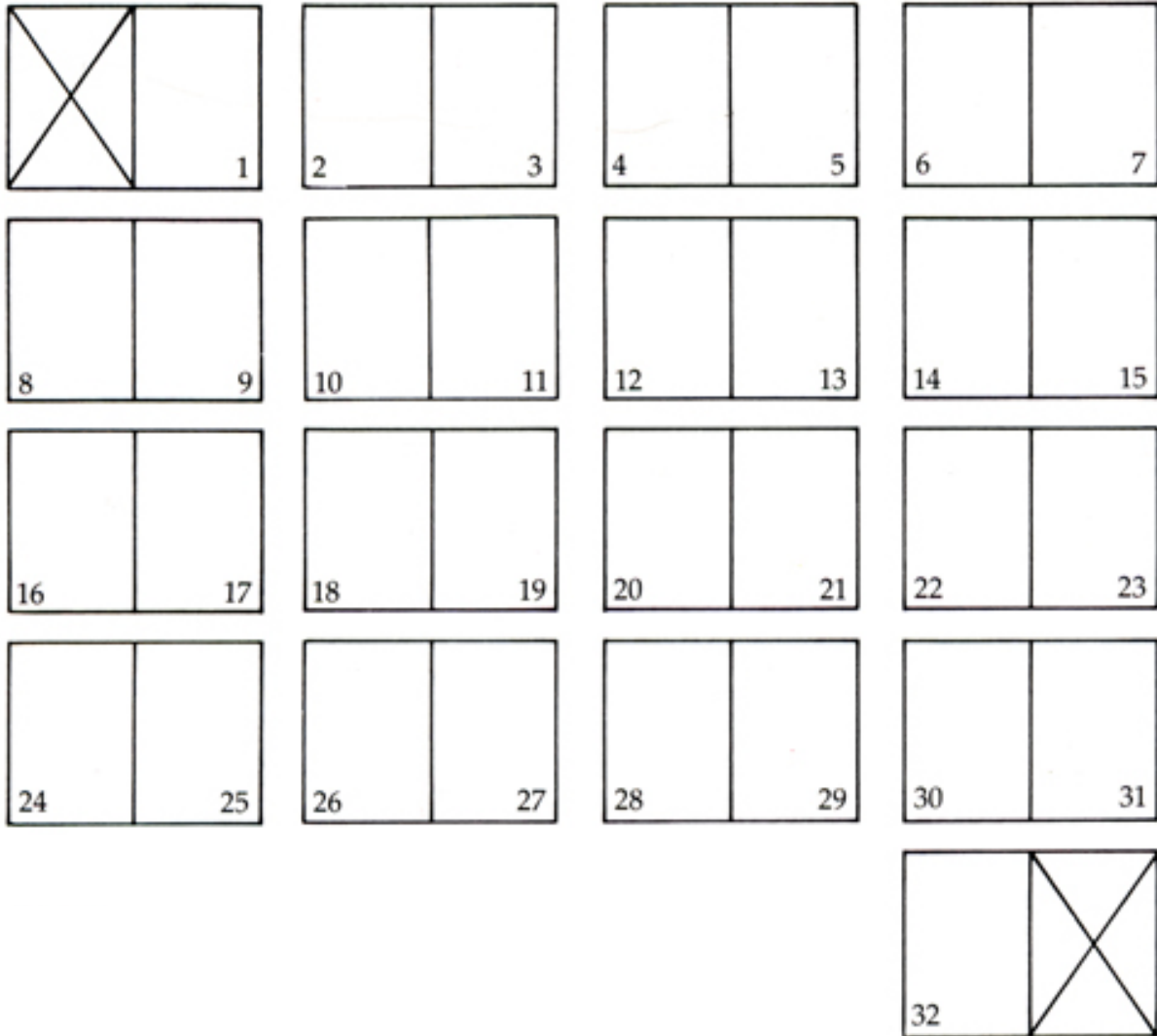
<https://www.denisevega.com/writers/free-tools/>

**TIP:** If you decide to cut up your text for either dummy type, I recommend saving your manuscript with a different name (like “title-dummyformat”). Then remove the title and contact info so you just have the text of the story, change to single line spacing, and format it in two columns. This will force the text to format to a width that will fit on your dummy pages.

FRONT MATTER/END PAPERS	TITLE PAGE	1
BLANK OR PUBLISHER INFO, SOMETIMES COPYRIGHT	SOMETIMES COPYRIGHT/DEDICATION, REPEAT OF TITLE	3
Story could start on this page...	...or on this page! It's up to the publisher, art director, and illustrator.	5
more text or wordless spreads...	more text or wordless spreads...	7

## What is a Storyboard?

A storyboard is a series of boxes representing the pages of your picture book, much like those used in film and animation.



You can find sample storyboards and templates online or create your own using the Tables feature. If you create your own using Tables and decide to cut and paste text from your manuscript, you may need to decrease the font size to accommodate your text.

### Resources:

Author-Illustrator Debbie Ridpath Ohi:

<http://inkygirl.com/inkygirl-main/2015/11/4/free-picture-book-thumbnail-templates-for-writers-and-illust.html>

Author Tara Lazar

<https://taralazar.com/tag/picture-book-template/>