



# The ScribbleBooks® Company, Inc.

A Headstart on Creativity!®

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Dear Teaching Professional,

Your students have just been hired as book illustrators — by me. Although they will be illustrating a “ScribbleBook”, I do not want them to Scribble. For a student in intermediate grades, a scribble doesn’t require thought or planning. A scribble doesn’t require much time. Illustrating a book does. The creative process requires time and planning. There are first drafts and revisions that lead up to the final product - that’s the reason why they put rubber on the ends of pencils! There are 29 illustrations in the book, so if you happen to have 29 students, each can complete one page. Otherwise, teachers and principals can join in on the fun! Children always enjoy seeing the creative process of grown-ups.

As you know, children start out loving to scribble and create masterpieces. But by fourth grade, except for the identified “artists”, most children no longer feel good about creating art and become self-conscious about both the process and the product. What happens before fourth grade? Rules. Kids learn they need to follow rules in order for art to be acceptable. Grass must be green, wheels must be round, people must have noses. Their creations are no longer theirs, but become carbon copies of everyone else’s in the class. There is no room for individuality, no margin for creativity. In fact, creativity is stifled. Kids need tools to encourage creativity and individuality, not conformity. ScribbleBooks do just that.

One of the most difficult rules about creative expression for a child to understand is that there are no rules. There is no “wrong” way to illustrate a ScribbleBook (except for age-inappropriate scribbling). Your students should know that their ScribbleCharacters don’t have to look like anyone else’s. Each completed page will have its own unique character while remaining recognizable regardless of the student’s artistic “abilities.” The goal is for each child to feel success, to realize that they, too, can illustrate a book, and to have fun.

But ScribbleBooks are not only fun, they also promote positive messages and family values. Written by my wife, a school counselor, the stories draw on her background as a professional counselor and additionally on her experience parenting. My presentation and the ScribbleBook your class is illustrating, *ScribbleMonster and the Broken TV*, focus on limiting screen-time and promoting the fact that you simply can’t be creative while sitting in front of a TV all day long.

ScribbleBooks, activity guides and other materials are available online at [www.scribblejim.com](http://www.scribblejim.com). To access these items, click on the ScribbleJim character on the top left corner of the page. You may also access the page directly at [jim.scribblebooks.com/html/materials.html](http://jim.scribblebooks.com/html/materials.html). It is important that you use the ScribbleBook your school has selected since the story’s theme will carry over into the visit to your school. In addition to completing a class book together, your school has received copies of our albums, *Chocolate Milk* and *Best of Friends*, for your students to listen to. The more familiar your students are with the materials, the more optimal the presentation will be for them.

I encourage you to survey our Web site for kids, located at [www.scribblemonster.com](http://www.scribblemonster.com), for other fun and creative activities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the class ScribbleBook project or any of the other materials. Thank you for your participation and your interest. I look forward to meeting you and your students during my visit.

Sincerely,

**JAMES**

James Dague  
AKA “ScribbleJim”  
Creator of ScribbleMonster®

Intermediate