PAINT ME!

SARAH FRANCES HARDY
DRESS ME!
sarah francis hardy
“Writing a picture book is like writing *War and Peace* in Haiku.”  Mem Fox
CREATING CHARACTER
CREATING CONFLICT
“The cat sat on the mat is not a story. The cat sat on the other cat’s mat is a story.”

John le Carré
Today I'm going to my sister Rose's birthday party.

She's really really into fairies and princesses and everything pink.

"Well, Izzy! You have to put on pink fairy wings and a tutu."

"A tutu? I don't wear tutus. Especially pink ones."

"Then you can't come to my party. Mom said that it's my birthday party and I get to make the rules."

I look at them! They all think they're fairies, but I know fairies aren't real.

Those magic words aren't real either.

"No fair. You let Fletcher come."

"Yeah, because he put on a pair of fairy wings."

"Well, I won't. I'm going to have my own party with my own friends who are spooky and kooky and definitely not pink. Come on, Jim."

Ew! Did Rose dress you up in one of her lazy nightgowns?

Much better!

Everyone knows that a pink monster would just be silly.

Those dried-up, withered roses are just what I need to decorate.

No party would be complete without a spider or two crawling all over the table and spinning webs in the teacups.

The attic is my favorite place. I have tea parties up here all the time.

Look! It's almost twilight--Gramma says twilight is the spooky, purplish-blue part of day that happens right before the moon comes out.

My invisible friend should be here any minute.

"V", you made it! Just in time.

"Why don't you sit in this special haunted chair next to me?"

Isn't this the most wonderful party ever? Everything is just the way I like it.

See? Most of the very best things are red pink at all.

[ pink, glittery and sparkly little sister bursts into the room]

"Hi, Izzy. Mom said for me to bring you some cupcakes."

AND little girls with fluffy pink cupcakes.

"Ew, spiders. Why don't you have any butterflies?"

"Because the spiders will eat them, of course."

"How terrible. Oh look, here's an empty seat for me!"

"That chair is not empty! You're sitting on it!"

"Where is she? Did she disappear?"

"Leave! And take your pink poofy stuff with you! This party was perfect before you showed up."

"But, it doesn't look perfect at all. Tea parties are supposed to have fresh flowers and cupcakes and friends you can see. This isn't a real tea party."

"Well, you're not a real fairy."

"I'm a certianly am."

"You are not. That's not even a real magic wand. Let me show you."

"Izzy? What's happening?"

"Whoo! This thing really works!"

"Ugh, Izzy! I think your kitty is turning into something!!!"

"Rose, what do we do?"

"Is that a DRAGON?!? Do you think it's mean?!?"

"Let's see if it likes cupcakes."

"It's working. Quick! Let's go before it eats them all up."

[girls slyly pass the dragon while she's distracted by the cupcakes]

"Izzy, you can come to my birthday party if you want to. You don't even have to wear a tutu."

"Thanks."

...and Rose, I'd really like to try one of those pink cupcakes."
CREATING
THUMBNAILS
The other kids teased Fiona.

On Monday... Medora called her Fiona Fancy Pants.

Other kids: "Arts, you pants!" etc...

When the teacher made everyone bend over and touch their toes at recess.

On Tuesday... Medora pushed up Fiona's tuta and stuck a ribbon onto her bottom.

And called her Belly Frilly.

Fiona was the one who got in trouble.

Fiona decided to take care of her pants and fancy-pantsy clothes once and for all.
"But everybody likes pink cupcakes!"

"Well ... not everybody. Not my monster. See? He's quivering and squirming."

"Buggies? Those are creepy, crawly spiders who spin magic webs to catch flower fairies ... And little girls with fluffy pink cupcakes."

"Ew, spiders. Why don't you have any butterflies?"

"Really? Then, I'll give this pretty cupcake to the cute little buggies."

"Because the spiders will eat them, of course."
I think it's important to pick the perfect thing to wear for every occasion.
WEBSITES FOR WRITING AND ILLUSTRATING CHILDREN’S BOOKS

• www.scbwi.org
• www.underdown.org