



CAMP FUN – CELEBRATING TURNING EIGHT!

Our field and forest turned into a camping experience extraordinary for Aubrey and six friends (and her sister, Sierra) as a tent popped up in the trees, a campfire landed near the vegetable garden, cake decorating happened under the arbor, and a scavenger hunt to find objects in the woods and field was organized, all for a very special occasion: Aubrey turning eight-years-old on May 14th!



Marshmallows were roasted, pillowcases were decorated using colorful fabric pens, and each guest followed a long string of yarn snaking up and down and around the play structure to find a special surprise at the end.

Aubrey (shown at left) is about to blow out the candle on the cake she decorated. Each guest enjoyed their very own cake to decorate making it into a miniature campsite, adding campfires, trees, grass, streams and rocks made from fondant.

Saturday night, dinner was pizza. Sunday morning, breakfast was colored pancake shapes all made by the guests themselves in Grandma and Grandpa's kitchen.



Right before Aubrey's party, Robert decided it was a good time to finally add a Dutch door to the downstairs playhouse in our backyard play structure!

Ella, shown below, is the main character in a children's story I wrote for the Illustrative Intensive Workshop I'm attending on May 21st.

WRITING & ILLUSTRATING OsbornGraphics.com/Illustrations

Tomorrow I am off to an all day Illustration Intensive workshop to join 33 other illustrators, all of whom, including me, will be presenting prints of our final children's book illustrations to Jim Hoover, Art Director at Viking Children's Books, for comment.

Before I could even start this drawing project, I had to come up with a story. And characters. My story is about Ella whose Grandpa gives her an iPad for her 7th birthday along with an app he wrote. The app makes objects in her dreams come to life.

This project started in January, first with pencil sketches for Jim to provide comment by mid-March. After his input, each participant had to render his or her sketches into full color art. The finals were due online last night. True to the way I work, I waited until the last hour to finish mine. The last three days I have been totally focused on refining, enhancing and colorizing my illustrations. I must say it sure feels good to have them finished!

