

Once Upon A Parsnip

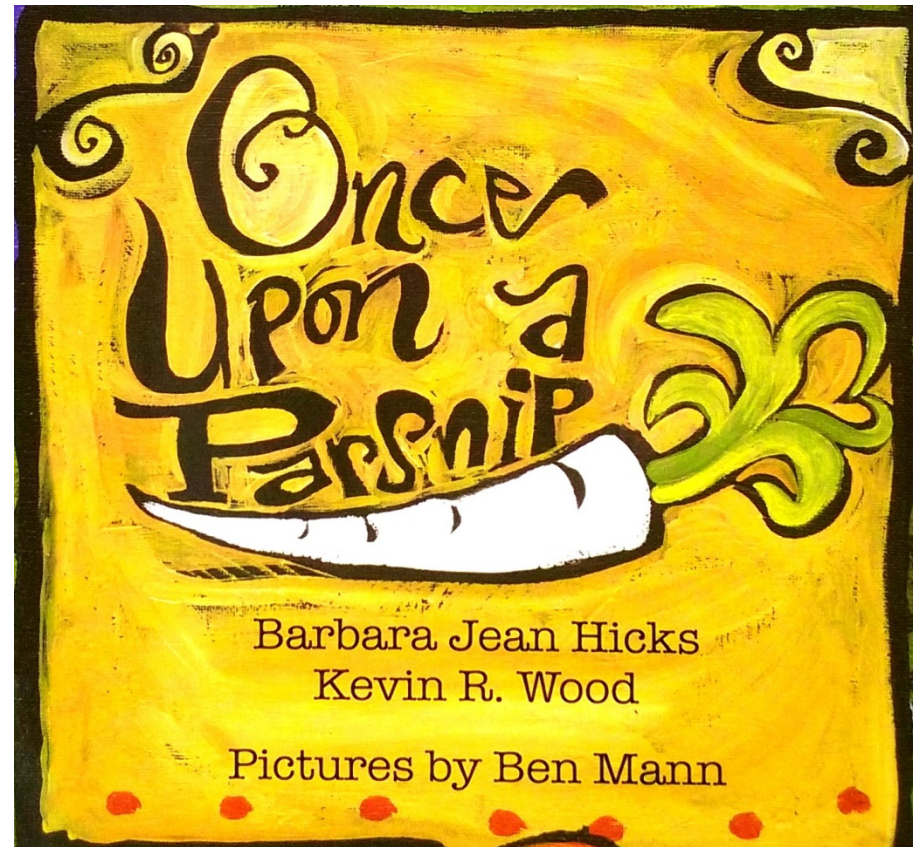
I am very happy with the way that our Parsnip Partnership helped Barbara, Ben and me write a better book. I hope that you enjoy *Once Upon a Parsnip* as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Someday I hope you will be able to work in a partnership, too.



Maybe you will find out what I did: Life is more fun when you work together with friends.

Parsnip Partnership By Kevin R. Wood



Partners



My name is Mr. Wood. I teach at Van Asselt Elementary School in Seattle. At Van Asselt, our students learn to work with partners. They read with partners, talk to partners, listen to partners and write with partners.

Our teachers work as partners, too. Sometimes we do things by ourselves, but sometimes we need help from partners. Sometimes, we like to work with partners just because it is fun!

Would you like to become an author?

There are many ways to be an author. You can work alone. You can have a partner help you write your story. You can have a partner draw the pictures for your story.

I think the best way to write a book is to write with a partner. It can be a lot more fun than writing alone.

Maybe you already know how much fun it is to work with a partner.



Partners help each other

Friends and partners help each other. One time I invited my co-author, Barbara, to come to Van Asselt School to help me teach my classes.



Barbara likes to visit schools. She loves to talk to kids about reading and writing.



At Van Asselt, Barbara read some of the books she has written. *A Sister More Like Me* is a book for two people to read together. Our principal, Ms. Oatis, read the book with Barbara.

What is a partnership?

When athletes work together, we call them a team. The Seattle Seahawks are a football team.



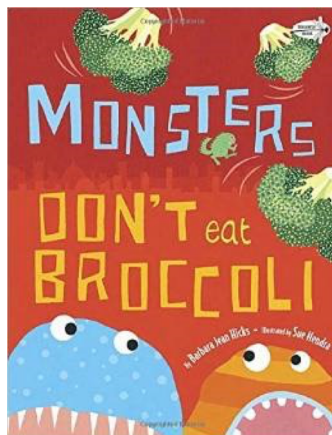
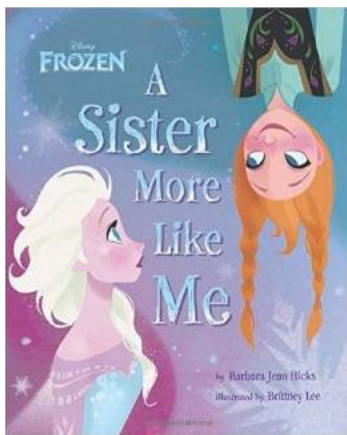
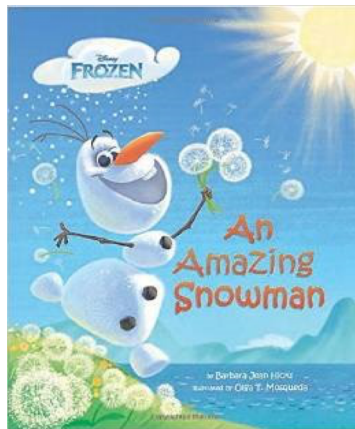
When two or three people work together on a project, they are also a team. Another word for that is a *partnership*.



Writing a book

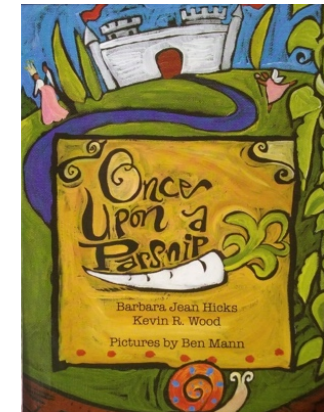
I wanted to write a book. I wrote a story called "The Fairy Tale Grocery Store." It was an ad for all the foods that you find in fairy tales. I showed it to my writing partner, Barbara Jean Hicks.

I knew Barbara could help me, because she is an author. She has written many books.



Teaching partnerships

My friend Ms. Walker and I have never worked together to write a book about parsnips. My friend Mr. Randolph and I have never worked together to write a book about parsnips.



But we are teaching partners. Life is a lot more fun when you learn how to work with partners.



Three partners

Our Parsnip Partnership is now three people. I did not meet Ben until after our book was published, but we were still partners!



Ben loves working with kids, just like I do. He had lots of fun illustrating *Once Upon a Parsnip*. I am very happy with the way Ben used his art to tell our story in pictures.



Something is missing!

Barbara looked at my story. "I like the ideas, Kevin," she said. "But there aren't any characters in your story! There aren't any problems, so there aren't any solutions."

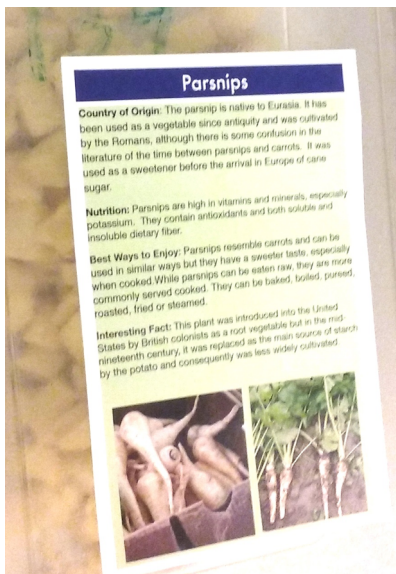
So Barbara and I worked together to create a new story. The setting is the same. The story still takes place in a Fairy Tale Market. But we added characters and a plot to make it better.



Better together

Some things I can do well. Some things Barbara can do well. Together, we are a great team.

Barbara chose the title for the book. She called it "Once Upon a Parsnip" because it is about fairy tale characters and food. She liked the way the word *parsnip* sounded when she said it, so she added parsnips to the story.



Parsnips look like white carrots.

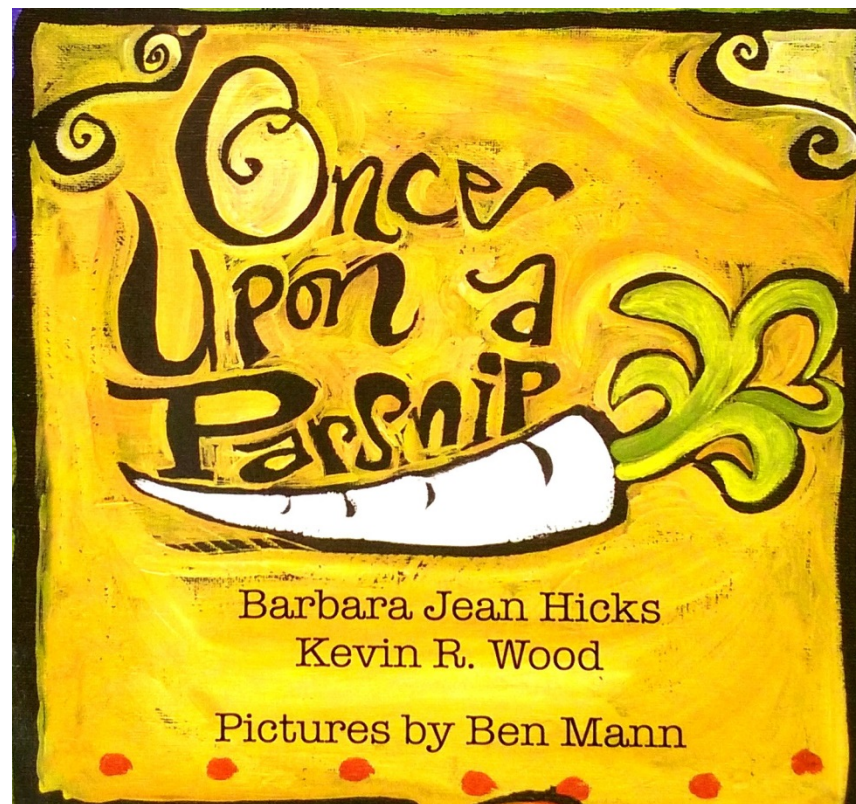


Here is a painting of a parsnip.

Parsnips are good for a snack. You can also use them in recipes. Once Upon a Parsnip has a recipe for apple-parsnip soup in it.

Waiting

Barbara and I started working on our story twelve years ago! Sometimes, it takes a long time to reach your goal. Barbara worked very hard to make every word sound just right.



Finally, the story was ready. But it couldn't be a picture book without pictures! So Barbara asked her friend, Ben Mann, to be part of our Parsnip Partnership. The names of all three of us parsnip partners are on the cover of our book.