



Mary Pope Osborne, author of the Magic Tree House series, shares her writing process and her favorite part about seeing her stories adapted into graphic novels.

How do you decide what you want to write about for the Magic Tree House series?

Mary: Readers everywhere write to me with ideas. When I get to talk to them, they give me great ideas for new books. Once I have a few, I take those and have my readers vote on their favorites. I find that often, no matter who I'm talking to, the votes are similar. For example, long ago, everyone wanted me to write about knights and castles, which is how we got *The Knight at Dawn*. So my readers play a very important part in the creation of the Magic Tree House books!

How did you first come up with the idea of a magic tree house?

Mary: The hardest thing to figure out was how to get Jack and Annie back in time in the very first book, *Dinosaurs Before Dark*. I wanted the brother and sister dynamic and for them to travel to the past, but I didn't know how. I tried magic crystals, a magic cellar, a magic art studio, even a magic museum, but none of those seemed to work. Nothing worked until I took a walk with my husband, Will, in the woods of Pennsylvania near a cabin we had. While walking, we saw an old tree house and the magic clicked! That's how I would get my characters back in time!

Mary recently connected with Magic Tree House graphic novel illustrators, Kelly and Nichole Matthews.

Mary: What was your favorite part of drawing the first Magic Tree House graphic novel?

Kelly and Nichole: The dinosaurs!!! We loved reading all sorts of books and stories about dinosaurs when we were younger.



EUROPEAN HISTORY, MIDDLE AGES

A castle. A knight. A quest! The magic MAGIC tree house whisks Jack and Annie away to the Middle Ages—a period between ancient and modern times. The Middle Ages were a period of change, but also a time of lots of warring kingdoms. Jack and Annie are on a mission, looking for a knight—a type of soldier. Instead, they find the Great Hall of a castle where a feast is under way. But Jack and Annie aren't exactly welcome guests! Live the adventure with vibrant. new full-color art that brings the magic to life in graphic novel form!

MAGIC TREE HOUSE

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

Join in and listen as Mary Pope Osborne reads from *The Knight at Dawn* graphic novel by clicking HERE.

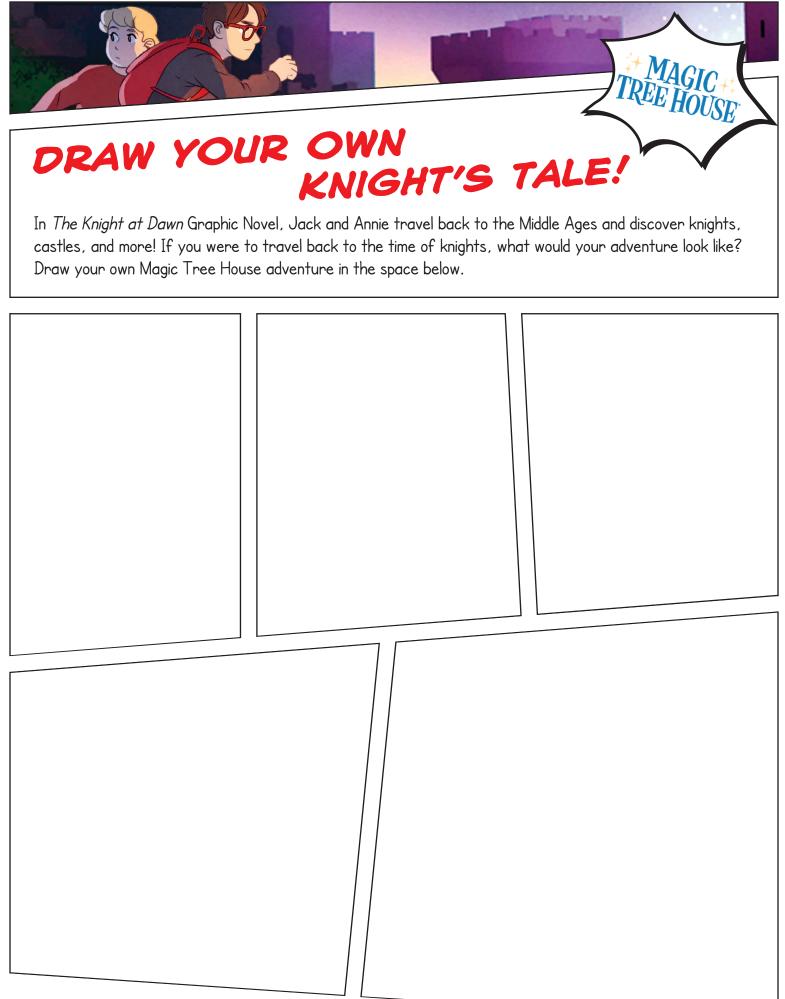


WRITE YOUR OWN MAGIC TREE HOUSE ADVENTURE!

Have you ever wanted to write your own adventure with Jack and Annie? Now is your chance! Imagine your own story and fill in the speech bubbles below









ATTENTION, EDUCATORS!

Check out the free downloadable Magic Tree House resources available through Mary's own

Classroom Adventures Program!

Created for teachers like you who have inspired Mary for 30 years with your dedication and creative use of Magic Tree House books.

Mary's program is a **Gift of Time** to teachers striving to find creative ways to inspire their students and still meet curriculum standards.

Free downloadable resources include:

- A Curriculum Key: classifies every Magic Tree House book in the series by subject and curriculum standards
- Reading Level Guide for all Magic Tree House books and Fact Trackers
- Comprehensive Lesson Plans for every Magic Tree House book and Fact Tracker

Visit **MTHClassroomAdventures.org** for more information!

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