PROJECT KIN

Presentation
**October 5, 2023**

PROJECT RECIPE EVENT

# The Princess and the Code

*A child's teaching ebook*

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Project Recipe Event:
**The Princess and the Code: A child's teaching ebook**

- **Intro & logistics <5 minutes**
- **Main talk ~ 30 minutes**
  - Concludes with a distribution of the "recipe"
- **Discussion ~20 minutes**
- **Wrap up <5 minutes**
- **"After party"** (~discussion, up to 30 min. more, no video)

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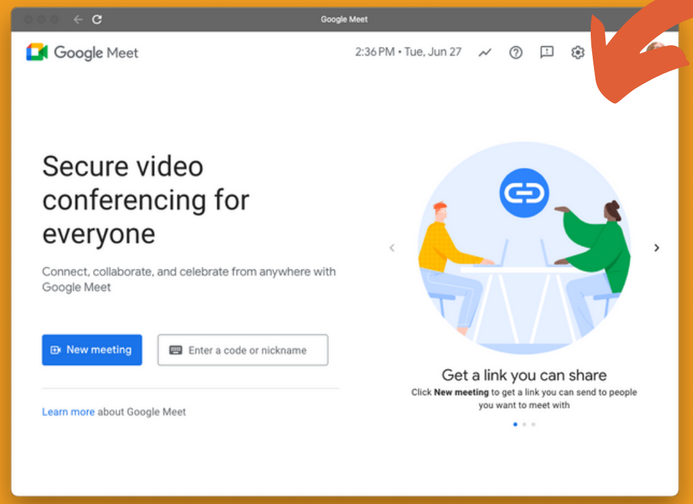
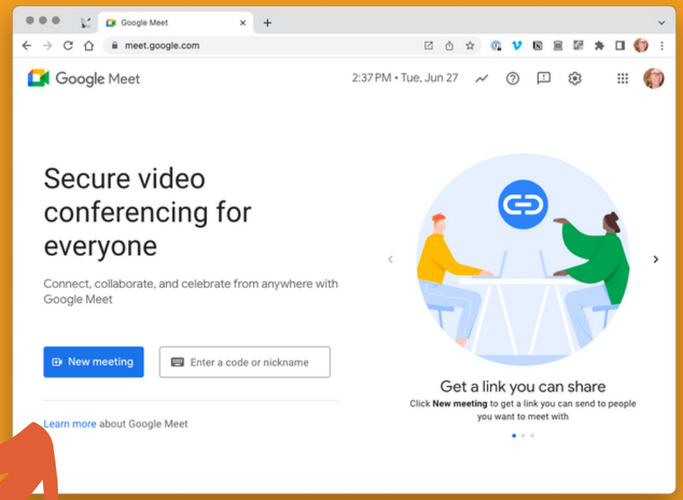
# LOGISTICS

- **Not your pandemic Zoom — Google Meet**




OPEN IN the new **Google Meet Chrome App**...

...**OR** pull it out into new **window**.)



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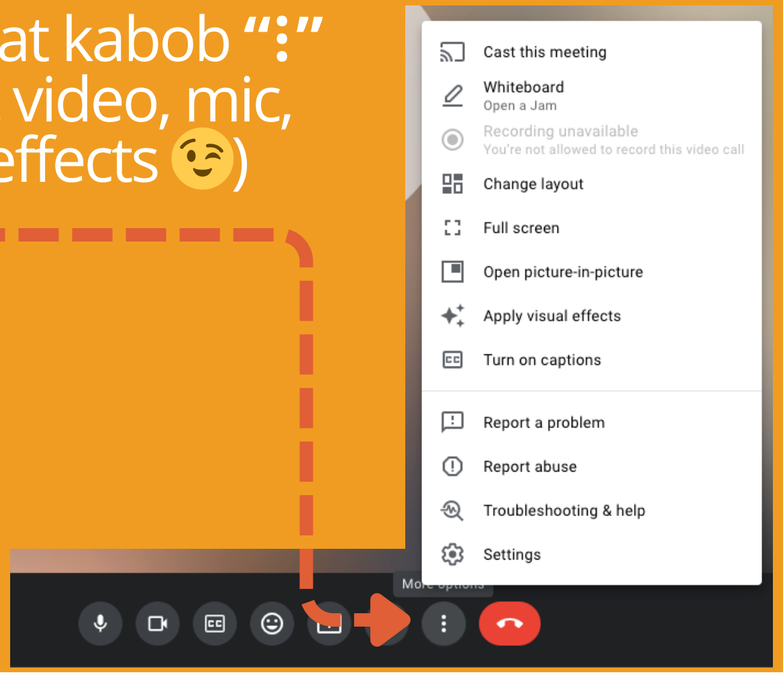
# LOGISTICS

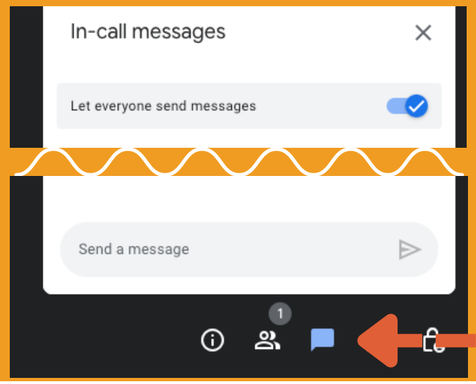
- **Google Meet tips...**

**Settings** at kabob **":"** (to adjust video, mic, or apply effects 😉)




**Chat** (connect with other participants, ask questions)

**No 1:1 chat**, sorry.



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# LOGISTICS

- **Community Forum EVENT ARCHIVES** are here for you
  - Video recording of the event
  - Summary of linked resources
  - View & download of slides
  - Feedback form (anonymous!)

***QR Codes for links***

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# INTRODUCTION:

**IS NOT a...**

- **PITCH** — I'm not selling anything for anyone.

**IS a...**

- **Sharing of CONCEPTS** — open discussion.
- **Testing of IDEAS** — try something new.

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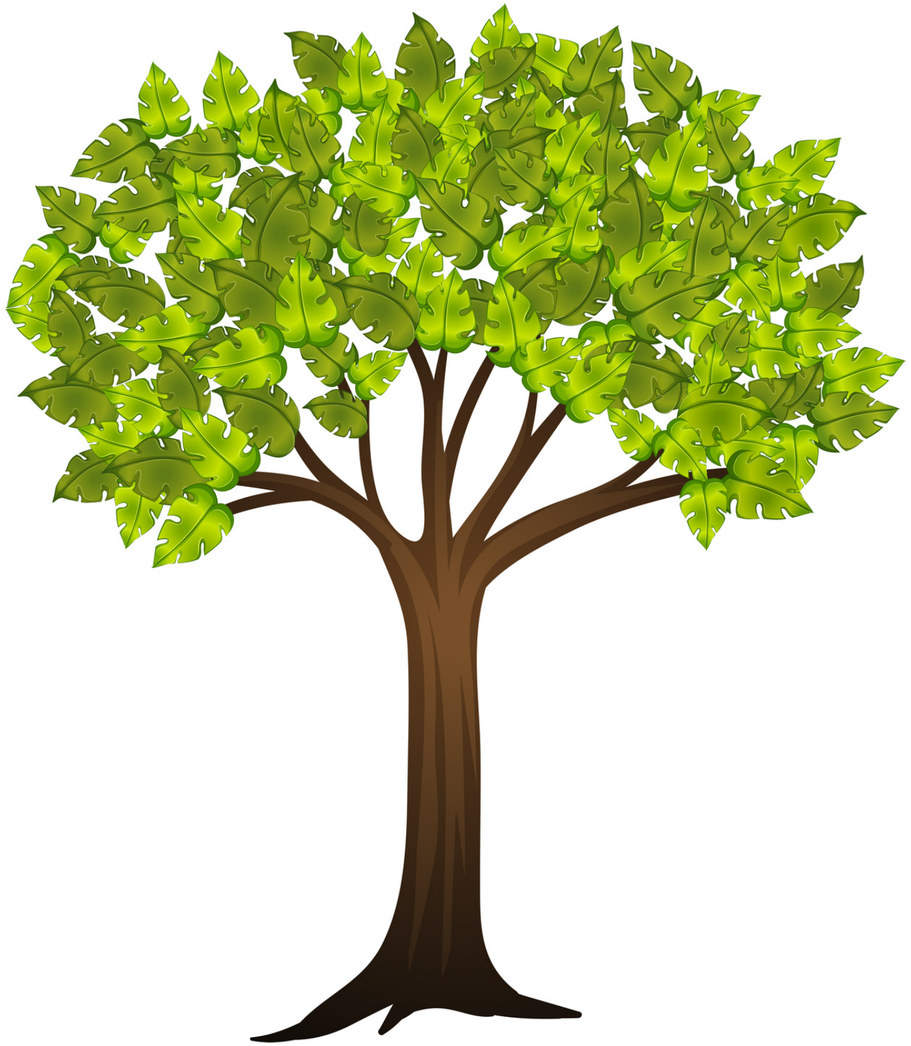
Let's **get real** about families . . .

What we like to think our family trees look like:



*Credit: Victeezy.com*

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# What most really look like:

*Credit: Freepix*

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Burls and twists in the family tree can be the origin point of **skeletons** ... or closely kept **SECRETS**.

. . . **divorce**, adoption, **an affair**, sexual orientation/same sex unions, **foster care**, surrocacy, **embryo/sperm donation** . . . and many, many others.

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Burls can also reveal . . .

**strength** in the face of adversity,
**free thinkers** before their times,
**creative approaches**,
**learning** from mistakes, and the **strength of love**.

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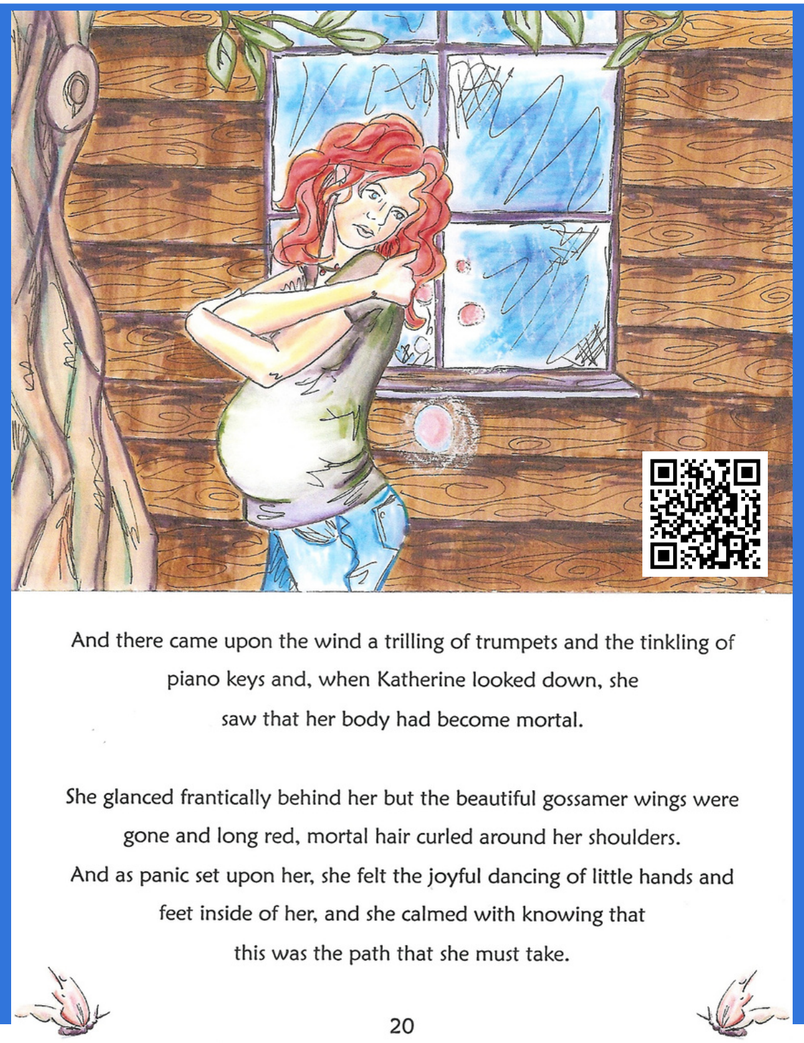

And there came upon the wind a trilling of trumpets and the tinkling of piano keys and, when Katherine looked down, she saw that her body had become mortal.

She glanced frantically behind her but the beautiful gossamer wings were gone and long red, mortal hair curled around her shoulders. And as panic set upon her, she felt the joyful dancing of little hands and feet inside of her, and she calmed with knowing that this was the path that she must take.

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# **Project**: The Princess ebook

- *Digital ebook with linked webpages and QR codes*
- *Printed book with QR codes*

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# The Princess and the Code: A child's teaching ebook

*"The particular human chain we're part of is central to our individual identity. Even if we loathe our families, in order to know ourselves, we seem to need to know about them, just as prologue. Not to know is to live with some of the disorientation and anxiety of the amnesiac."*

— Elizabeth Stone

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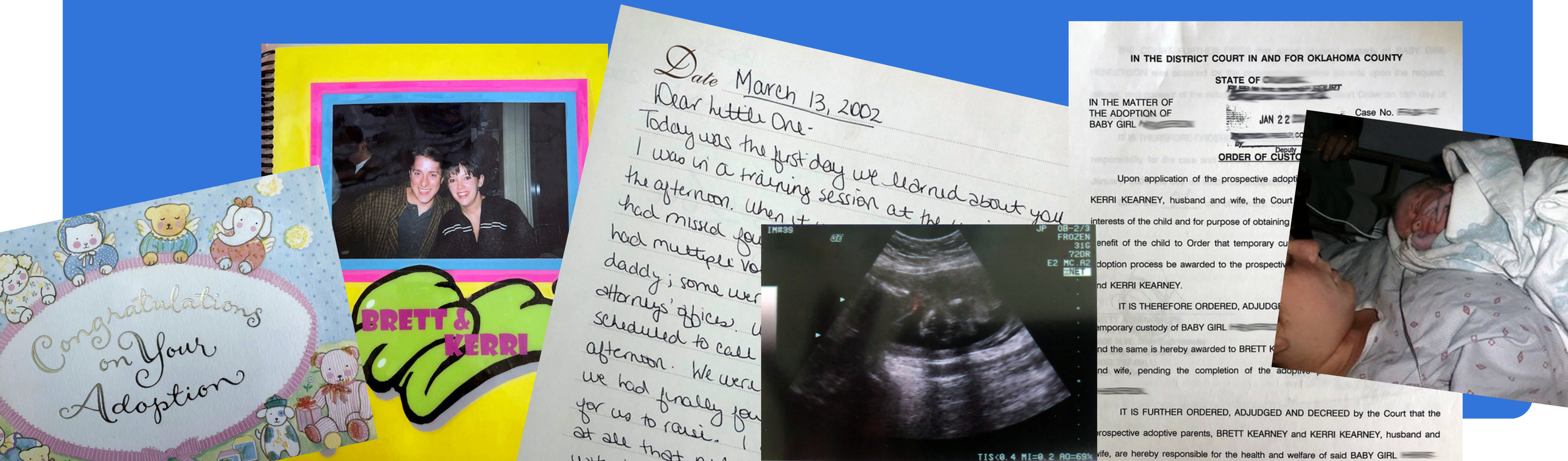
# Just like all family history, burls in the family tree often start with "**stuff**" …



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In "the stuff" are the stories ...

and, for centuries,

stories have been used as **powerful teaching tools**.

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# MY GOALS . . .

- To make a story familiar and accessible from an early age.
- To frame the story in a way that details could be added as the child grew.
- To honor my child's right to her story.

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# Want a glimpse?

*Most names have been changed to protect the individuals.*

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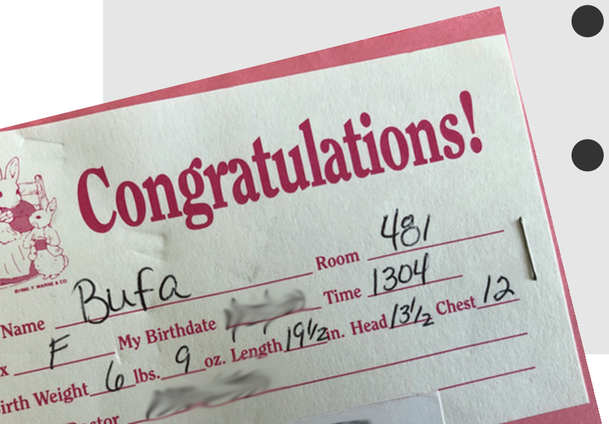
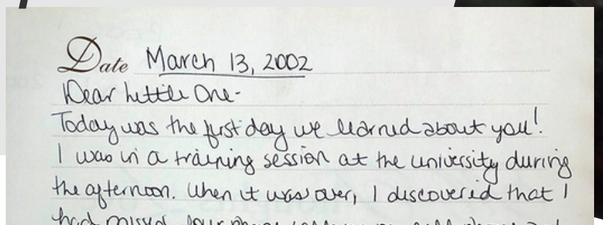
# Step 1: Plan the Story

- *What do you want the child to learn?*
- *What is age appropriate (plant seeds)?*
- *What are useful metaphors or frameworks?*
- *Use a co-author?*
- *Create an outline or story map*




Date March 13, 2002
Dear little One-
Today was the first day we started about you!
I was in a training session at the university during the afternoon. When it was over, I discovered that I

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*Children may create fantasy stories about some family situations.* ***Earn long-term trust*** *by:*

- *Sticking with the facts or fact-based representations*
  - *Children may struggle later if something they believed is not true.*
- *Leaving out pieces you don't know*
  - *Say "I don't know" when that is the truth*

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# Step 2: Write the story

- *Look at some children's books to get ideas about structure and flow*
- *Invite the feedback of others*
- *Use an editor*
- *Be careful with the reading level / who will be the reader?*

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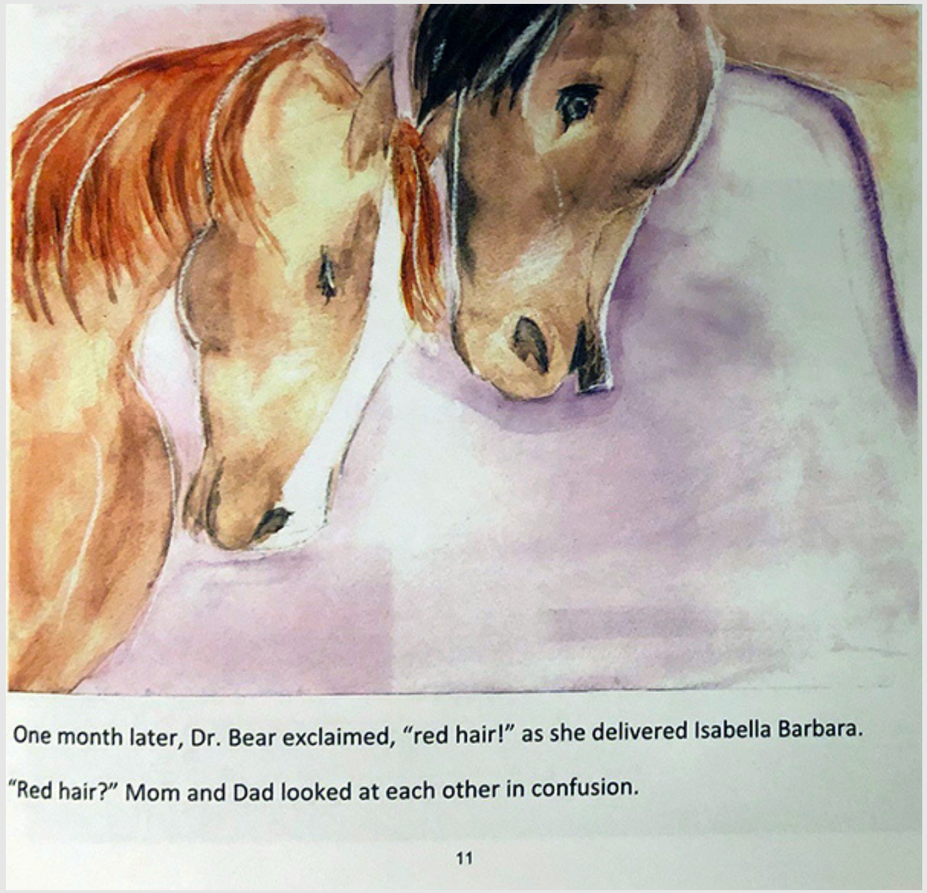


# Step 3: Prepare illustrations

- *Clipart*
- *Photos*
- *Child's drawings*
- *Hire illustrator (check at your local high school!)*

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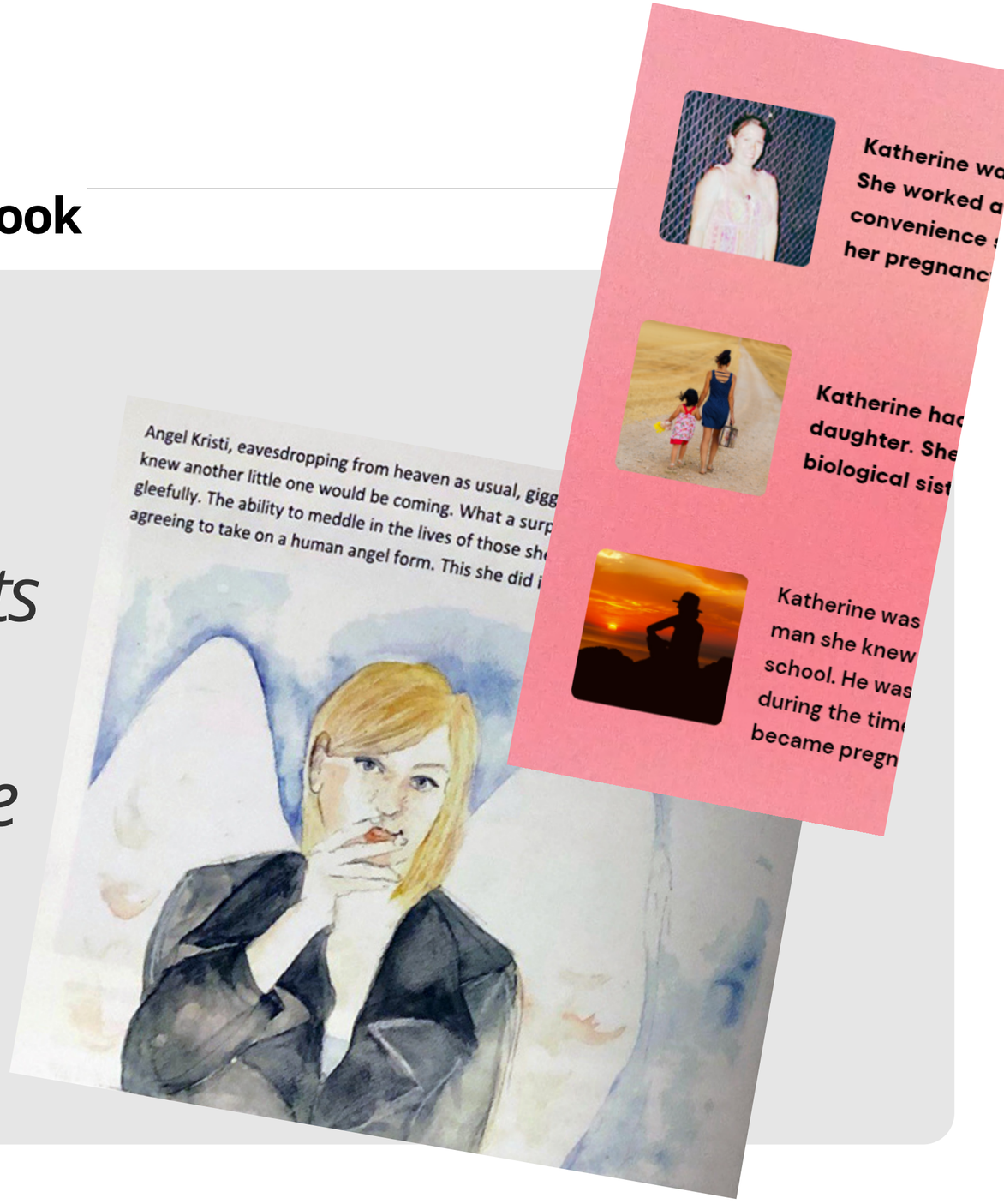
# To think about

- *Use only **actual photos/ representations** of a missing person . . . maybe digital formats only.*
- *Silhouettes and photos from the back are good substitutes.*
- *Lots of options for clip art and photos.*



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# Step 4: Plan the digital pieces

- *Which pages will be supplemented?*
  - *Narration (and they have your voice forever)*
  - *Music*
  - *Webpages (private pages are good option)*
    - *Bonus: You can add details to webpages as the child grows*

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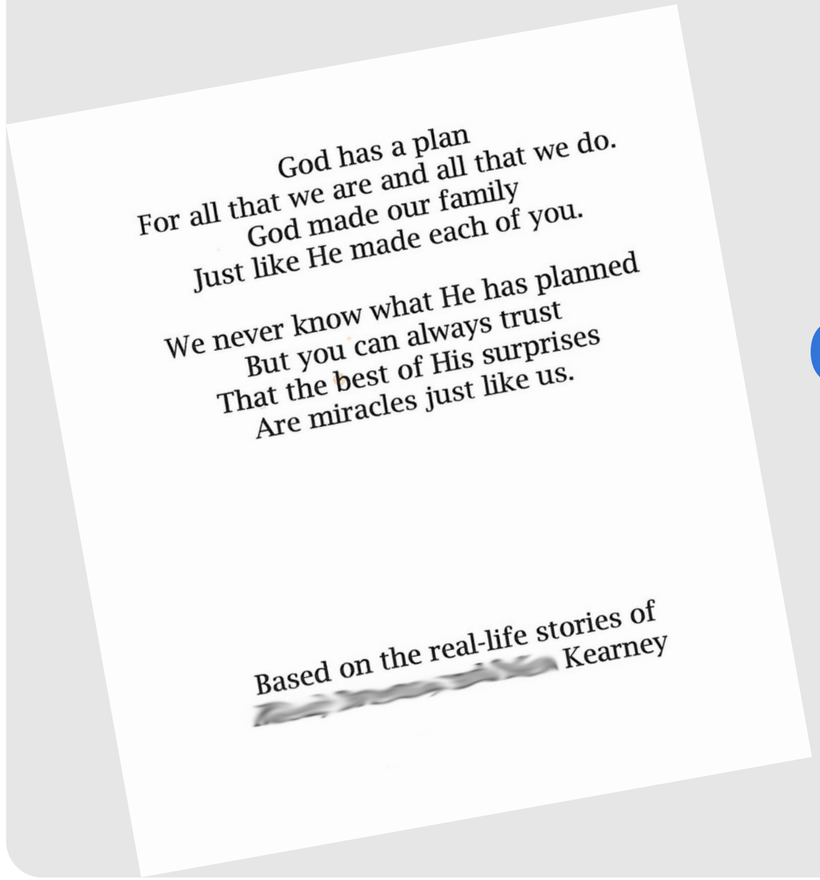
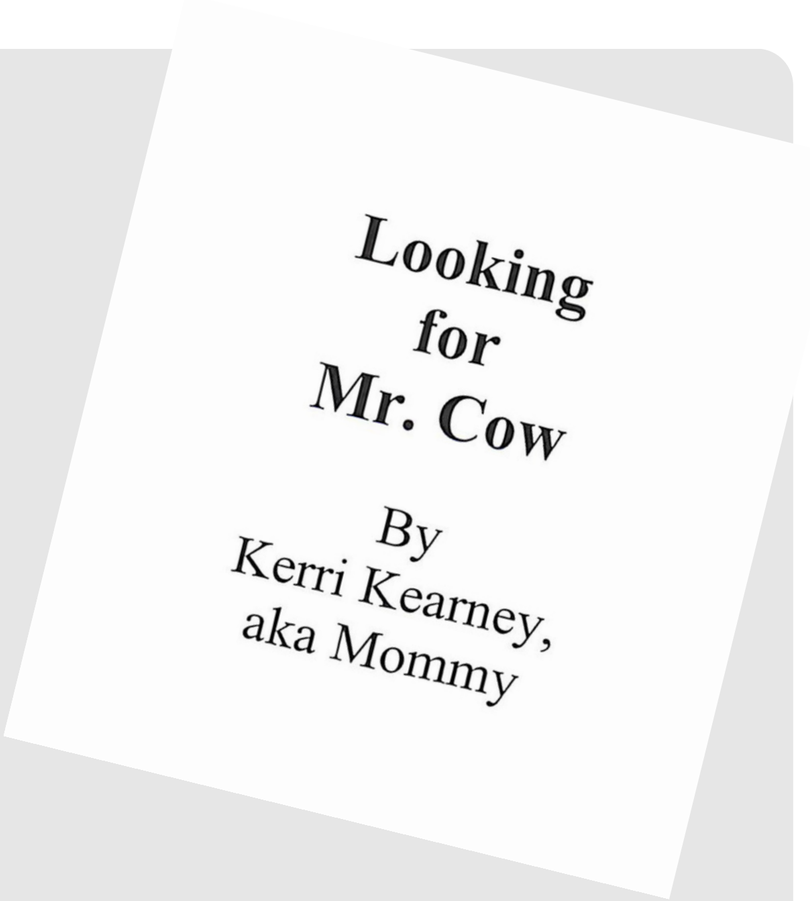



# Step 5: Write a dedication or other message and a interior title page



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# Step 6: Send it to production

- *Self publishing sites (I used Kindle Direct Publishing for my print book)*
- *Ebook software (I used Simple Booklet)*
- *QR code generator (I used Canva)*
- *Webpage maker (I used Canva)*

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# There are lots of teaching stories besides the hard ones!

- *How a lost toy was found*
- *When we don't win*
- *Family traditions*
- *Animals on Papa's farm*
- *Origin stories for everyone*

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# When it's a hard story, talk to the child about privacy

- *Be clear that private is different from secret.*
- *Be clear about who owns the story.*
- *Once age appropriate, let the child decide who has access -- this is a balancing act in the early years.*
- *Let the child know they have the right to change their minds.*

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# Access for print books

- *Put print books on the shelf with others. Message:*
  - *Your story is "normal."*
  - *Your story is just as special as any other story.*
  - *You have a right to access your story whenever you want.*

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# Access for for ebooks and webpages

- *Consider the ease with which webpages and ebooks can be shared and take precautions as appropriate.*
- *Consider what device(s) the child accesses the story on, and how those may/may not be protected.*

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# Sharing our gifts

- *If you are considering writing a difficult story, I'm happy to think through it with you!*
- *Find me at kerri.kearney@okstate.edu or through our Forum here at ProjectKin.org*

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## Resources to create your own

- New Topic in Community Forum "Project Recipes"
  - PDF of recipe with details
  - PDF of this presentation
  - Links to
    - Articles mentioned
    - Tuesday Tutorials mentioned
- Open forum for discussion. Join us!

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# THANK YOU

Let's continue the discussion in the Forum. Recording available with a couple of hours in the **Community Event Archives**.

You can always reach us at
**projectkin.org**@**gmail**.com