

# AUTHOR “CREATOR” STUDY

Some quirky facts about the author of  
the **SKY PRIVATE EYE** series:

## ★ JANE CLARKE



**About Jane:** Jane is the talented author of over 80 books for young children, including the award-winning picture books *Gilbert the Great*, *Neon Leon*, *Knight Time* and *Stuck in the Mud* and the 'AL'S AWESOME SCIENCE' series, illustrated by James Brown. She loves animals, fossils and being a grandma. She enjoys writing her stories and poems and sharing them on visits to schools and nurseries. Find out more here: [www.fivequills.co.uk/five-quills-authors-illustrators/](http://www.fivequills.co.uk/five-quills-authors-illustrators/)

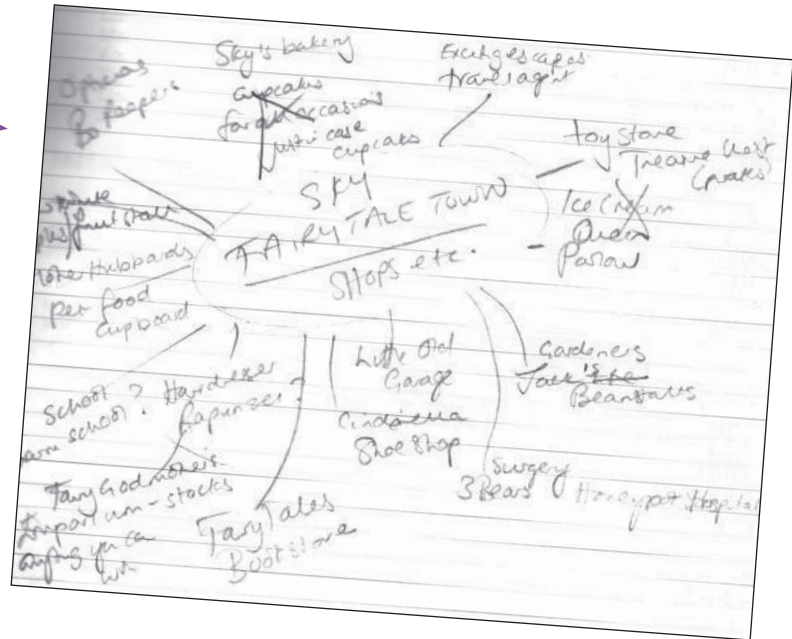


**What does Jane do?** Jane is the *author* of the **SKY PRIVATE EYE** series and has been involved in creating and writing the storylines, characters and the setting right from the beginning.

First, she works with her editor to develop Sky as a character and figure out alternative plots based on famous fairy tales.

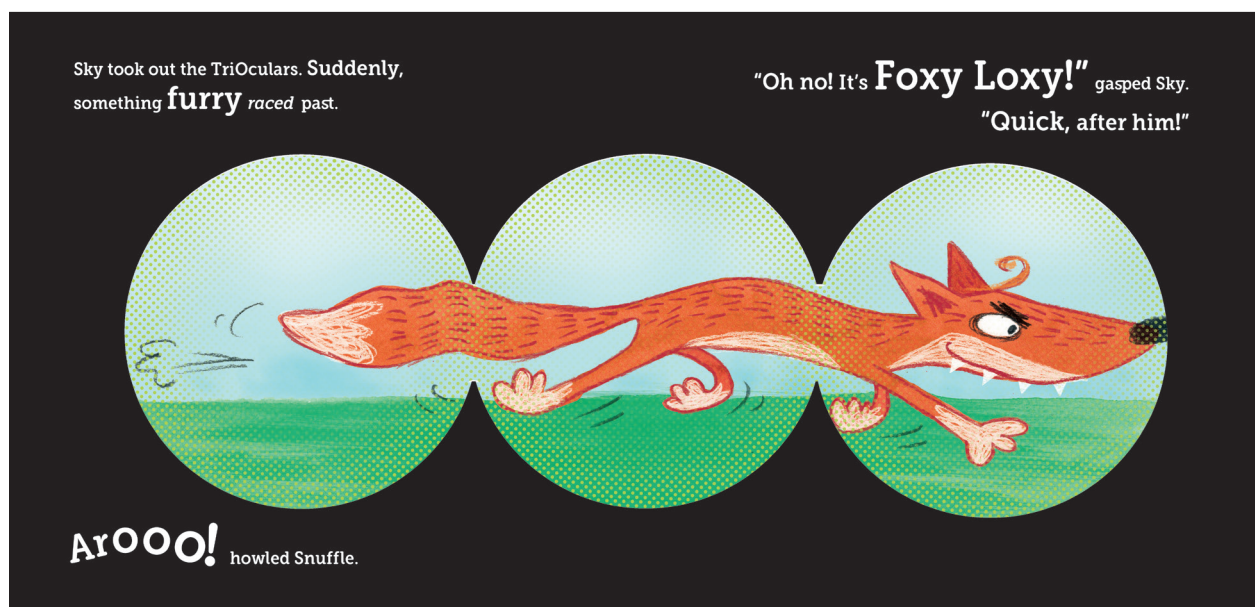
Jane brainstorms the storyline and characters by hand, using pencil and lots of scrap paper – most of which gets crumpled up and thrown in the bin. Then, she writes a first draft and types it up onto the computer so it can be edited.

One of Jane's brainstorms on scrap paper where she's coming up with ideas for the types of shops she could have in Fairytale Town.



She keeps young readers excited about the story by thinking hard about where the page turns should go, making them surprising and exciting.

Jane always reads her texts out loud, even if it means she's talking to herself, to make sure they are right before sending them to her editor.





## 10 COOL FACTS ABOUT JANE CLARKE:

- ★ Jane started out as an archaeologist, and was also a teacher and a library assistant before she became a writer.
- ★ She has written over 80 books. That's a lot of different kinds of books!
- ★ Her favourite fairy tale character is the Ugly Duckling.
- ★ Jane's favourite kind of cupcake is carrot cake with lots of swirly frosting.
- ★ She loves HB school pencils, especially the yellow and black ones.
- ★ Jane enjoys hunting for fossil shark teeth on palm-tree lined beaches in Florida, USA.
- ★ If Jane could be in the Fairytale Olympics, she would choose the golden egg and spoon race.
- ★ If the Prince invited her to the Fancy Dress Ball, Jane would dress up as a jellyfish – she would cover an umbrella in shimmery foil and hang lots of long strips of foil from it. That way, she could peep out and spot all the fairytale celebrities, hide from the Big Bad Wolf and eat all the cake without anyone noticing.
- ★ Jane likes to write from 9am to around 2pm. After that, she goes for walk, along the canal or to a park, or into town. She jots down ideas in her notebook that accompanies her everywhere, but writes at her desk.
- ★ Jane's motto is: writing isn't brain surgery; no-one gets hurt if you get it wrong.

