The non-profit project “BookHoof” aims to create partnerships between volunteer illustrators and authors as well as partnering with students and teachers in classroom settings. The books are created in creative workshop settings and put online, free of charge by bookhoof.org, so that they can be accessible with internet access, which is notably interesting for those who do not have the financial means to purchase books themselves. The project, supported by EnJeu[x], is the outcome of a collaboration with Culturati Factory who specialise not only in the organization of workshops and cultural events, but also in the training of people interested in organizing them.
The different steps

As a participant, you will have the opportunity to participate in the creation of a book that could be published on our website. To do this, the workshop organizers are there to help you through the following 3 steps that are necessary for the creation of a children's book.

Imagine
Create
Edit

Through these different steps, the workshop organizers will ask you regularly to share with them how your work is advancing in order to help you with any corrections, re-reading, and the translation of your book.

Find more information on the website: bookhoof.org
Imagine

In this first step, it is up to you to put yourself in the place of the narrator. The only limits are those of your imagination.

This can be a tiny bit worrisome: when we start from zero, we are free to write whatever we want, possibly giving us what we call “writer’s block”.

“But what can I even write about?”

This document is here to help you ask yourself the right questions as well as to give you some advice when creating a story.

First: Start with what is already out there.

Feel free to look over existing books. If you don’t have any readily available, you probably have a cellphone in your pocket, and maybe even a laptop with you. The internet is your friend, and using it you can find an unlimited amount of information and inspiration.

Second: Join forces

Two brains are better than one! Exchange ideas with the others in your group! One step in the brainstorming process is to start with a simple idea and continue to go further with it. See what you can come up with!

Third: Structure your ideas.

With the help of the examples that you looked at the beginning of the workshop, as well as your own ideas, you will then need to organize the major points of your story. Think of a chronology, all of the twists and turns as well as the direction that you want to take your story in.

And don’t hesitate to ask for advice from the organizers of this workshop. That’s what they’re here for!
Create

Now you may find yourselves at a very satisfying point in the creation of your book. The magic of your collective idea is coming together through your hard work as a group. You have exchanged ideas about your aspirations and expectations, you have worked together, and now you all agree upon your communal idea.

The idea that you have for your story, like a diamond in the rough, needs to be polished. Therefore, you will, from here on out, need to give life to your story, in the minds of yourself and those of your group. To do so, this pamphlet will help you do break this task into 3 main parts.

Organize the structure

Write your story

Draw
Organize the structure of your book using a storyboard.

A framework, to create the books structure, has been recommended by Bookhoof. It would be wise to adapt this document and create your ideas using it. It’s the first blank page from which you will begin, and you can move forward, more or less, using this structure. Reflect upon the collective chronology of your story, and put it in place with your written story and your drawings. What you create, with the help of this storyboard, is nothing more than the skeleton of your final product.

Write your story.

Based on your idea, you must now choose the words that you will use to reach the readers. Not too long of sentences, not too much information, but beautiful and well explained sentences that will clearly explain each step of your story. Stylized sentences, rhymes, well thought out literary methods, etc. Don’t hesitate to use certain techniques to make your story as lively as it is in your imagination.

Draw your works of art.

It’s difficult to imagine a children's book without illustrations. You now have the chance to solidify your artistic creations throughout this workshop. When is the last time you have had the chance to open a box of coloring crayons? Now is the time to have fun and be creative. Take this chance and do your best to work in any and every medium that you would like to.

In any case, this part of the process will ask you to reflect deeply upon another aspect of group work. Rather than joining forces, you will need to distribute the tasks according to the strengths of each person in the group. The constraints of time are strong and very real, so it will be necessary to delegate the tasks. Believe in yourselves.
Before you start editing with Scribus or Indesign, you must create a folder structured as follows:

First, you must create a folder on your desktop. It should have the same name as your book.

This folder should contain the following elements:

- A sub-folder which will contain all the images you will be using.

- A text file (word, office writer, etc) in which is written the complete text of your book (if you can, also indicate there the name of the special fonts you used when you edited).

- The Scribus project file (.sla) or your InDesign assembly folder.

- A .pdf file created with the software you used for editing (this .pdf will work as “screenshot” of your work at the end of the workshop, it will help us at the organization if we needed to tweak a thing or two before putting it online).

We’ll provide you an address during the workshop so that you can upload your folders (you will have to compress them with Winrar or 7zip).