

Fact Sheet:

Will Hillenbrand

(Author & Illustrator)



- **Who is Will Hillenbrand?**

Will Hillenbrand is an American author and illustrator who has written and illustrated over 80 books for kids just like you!

- **What does he do?**

He writes stories and draws pictures for children's books. Sometimes he does both for the same book!

- **Where is he from?**

Will Hillenbrand was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. He still lives in Ohio (Terrace Park) today.

- **What are some of his books?**

Will Hillenbrand has created and illustrated many beloved children's books. Some of his most popular titles include Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep!, Down by the Station, What a Treasure, The Voice in the Hollow, Light as a Feather, and Cub and Bat.

- **Awards and Honors**

Will has earned many awards throughout his career, including the Gold Medal from The Society of Illustrators, the Ohioana Book Award for "The Voice in the Hollow," the Ohio Governor's Award in the Arts, and Floyd's Pick. His books have been chosen as Notable Books by the American Library Association and have won state reading honors from many children's book groups. Will's books are often picked for reading lists and are celebrated by schools and libraries across the country.

- **Worldwide Reach**

Will Hillenbrand's books are enjoyed by children all around the world. Print editions of his stories have been distributed to readers in many countries and translated into 13 different languages. As a bestselling author and illustrator, Will has sold millions of books, making his stories and illustrations a beloved part of childhood for kids everywhere.

- **Favorite food**

Freshly picked high bush blueberries.

- **Fun Fact**

Will started drawing when he was a little boy, creating pictures and telling stories to his family. His passion for art began early, and he still draws every single day. This lifelong love for drawing helps him bring wonderful stories and characters to life.

- **Idea Journal**

Will keeps an Idea Journal and draws in it every day. Keeping an Idea Journal is important because it helps save your thoughts, ideas, and drawings. You never know when a great idea will come to you!

- **Little-known truth**

Will has dyslexia, which makes reading and writing harder for him. He believes challenges can hold you back or help you grow. Will uses his dyslexia to become kinder, more creative, and determined. He shows that overcoming hard things can make your storyline even better.

- **The Process**

Making a story is a process that does not happen instantly. Will creates many small drawings, called thumbnail sketches, to plan the pictures and create a sequence that tells a story. He also does a lot of revision to improve his books. During the process, the book idea gets stronger and simpler.

- **What inspires him?**

Will says he gets ideas from his own life and the world around him. He loves animals and nature, so you will see lots of them in his books!

willhillenbrand.com



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