

From the publisher: Behind the Scenes with artist, [Thyra Heder](#).



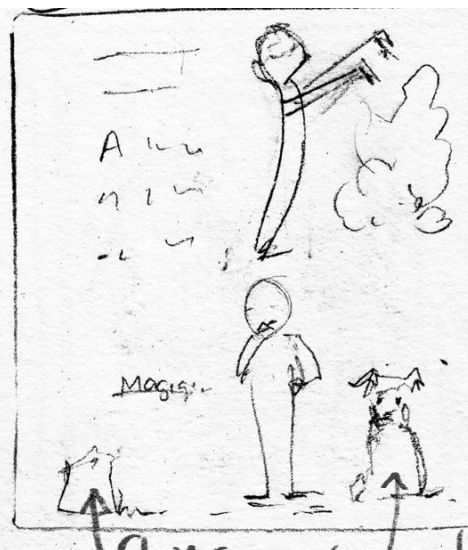
The illustrator of *Penny & Jelly: The School Show* gives us a behind-the-scenes look at her creative process.

First thumb sketches. I always draw very small and very rough in the beginning stages so I can try out lots of options without getting exhausted.



Penny pulled Jelly out of a hat.
Sort of.

Penny sawed Jelly in half.
Kind of.



Penny made Jelly disappear.
"Abracadabra! Alacazam! Shazam!"
Not.

~~Magic~~
"I'll never find a talent in time!" said Penny.

My very first page of doodles trying to figure out what Jelly should look like.



This is Lucy my friend Julia's dog who I used as a reference for Jelly. She is a total nut and I love her.



A page of my work when I was trying to figure out what Penny would look like, how old she would be, and what she was wearing.



After re-drawing the very rough sketches for a while, I tighten up the drawings. This is the stage right before I start final painting.



Once the interior art is done, on to the cover! I approach the cover in a similar way, sketching very rough and even thinking in blocks of color.



The final art is made from pencil, watercolor and ink. Sometimes I use photoshop to tweak or clean up big mistakes, but I like to leave a lot of the irregularities. For Penny's school I used my real life elementary school as a reference.

