

Once Upon A Parsnip

Kevin, Barbara and Ben are very happy with the way their parsnip partnership helped them write a better book. They hope that you like *Once Upon a Parsnip* as much as they liked writing and painting it.

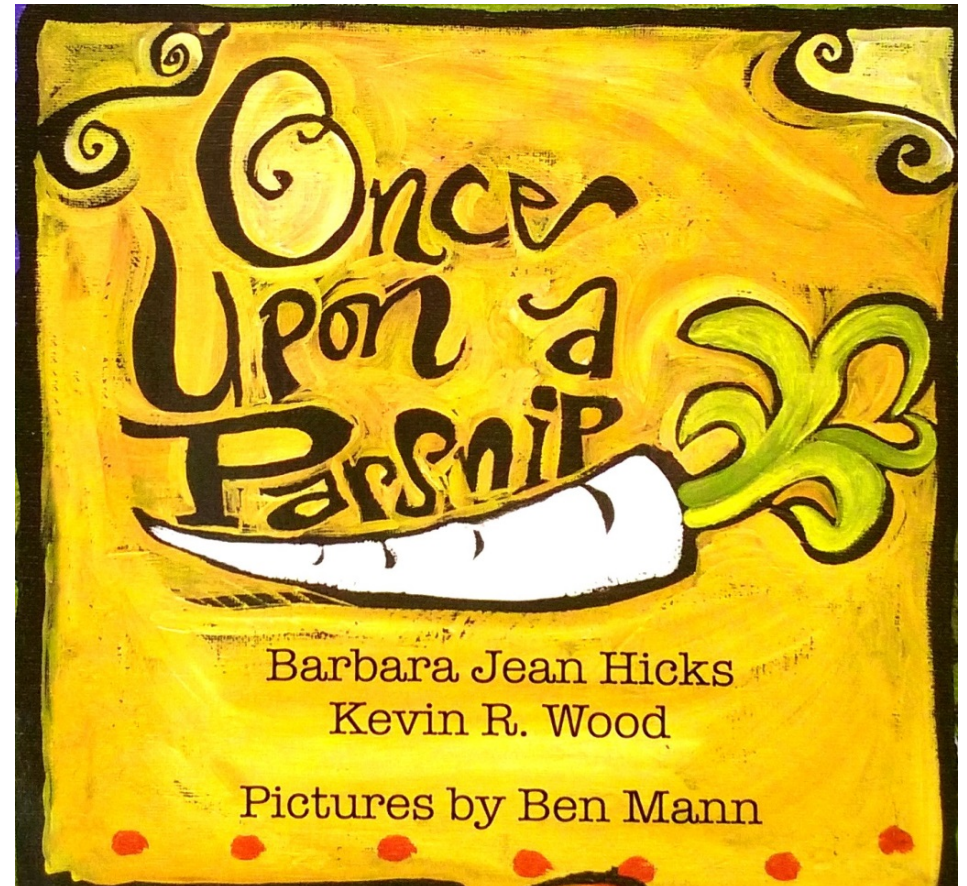
Maybe someday you will be able to work in a partnership, too.



Maybe you will learn the same thing Team Parsnip learned: Life is more fun when you work together with friends.

Parsnip Partnership

by Kevin R. Wood



Partners



Meet Kevin R. Wood. His students at Van Asselt Elementary School in Seattle call him *Mr. Wood*. Mr. Wood works hard to make learning fun!

At Van Asselt, students learn to work with partners. They read with partners, talk to partners, listen to partners and write with partners.



Would you like to become an author?

There are many ways to be an author. You can work alone. You can have a partner help you write your story. You can have a partner draw the pictures for your story.

Team Parsnip thinks the best way to write a book is to write with a partner. It can be a lot more fun than writing alone.

Maybe you already know how much fun it is to work with a partner.



Partners help each other

Friends and partners help each other. One time Kevin invited Barbara to visit his school to help him teach his classes.



Barbara likes to visit schools. She loves to talk to young authors about reading and writing.



At Van Asselt, she read some of the books she has written. *A Sister More Like Me* is a book for two people to read together. The principal, Ms. Oatis, read the book with Barbara.

What is a partnership?

When athletes work together, they are called a *team*. The Seattle Seahawks are a football team.



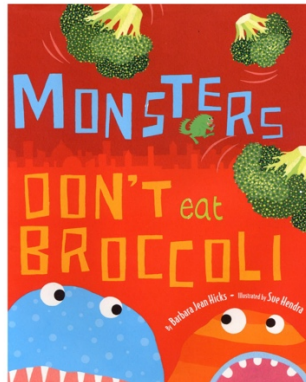
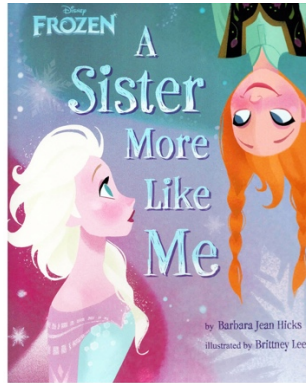
When two or three people work together on a project, they are also a team. Another word for that is a *partnership*.



Writing a book

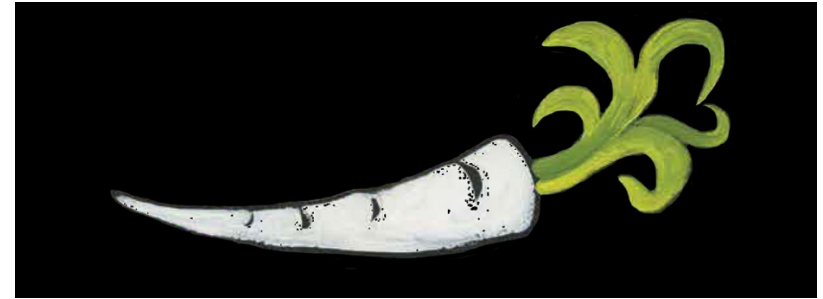
Kevin wanted to write a book. He wrote a story called “The Fairy Tale Grocery Store.” It was an ad for all the foods you find in fairy tales. He showed it to his writing partner, Barbara Jean Hicks.

Kevin knew that Barbara could help him because she is an author. She has written many books—so many that she is called Barbara Jean the Story Queen!



Teaching partnerships

Mr. Wood and his friend Ms. Walker have never worked together to write a book about parsnips. He and his friend Mr. Randolph have never worked together to write a book about parsnips.



But Mr. Wood, Ms. Walker and Mr. Randolph are *teaching* partners. Sometimes they do things by themselves, but sometimes they need help from each other. Sometimes they work together just because it is fun!



Three partners

Kevin did not meet Ben until long after the artwork was done, but they were still partners! The parsnip partnership became three people when Ben agreed to paint the pictures for the story.



Ben calls the partnership "Team Parsnip."

Ben had lots of fun illustrating the story. And Kevin and Barbara are very happy with the way he helped tell their story in pictures.



Ben loves working with kids.

Something is missing!

The Story Queen read Kevin's story. "I like the ideas, Kevin," she said. "This story is fun and funny. But it doesn't have any characters! There aren't any problems, so there aren't any solutions."

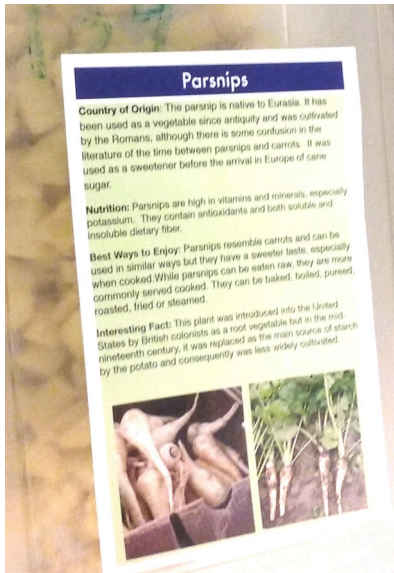
So Barbara and Kevin worked together to create a new story. The setting is the same. The story still takes place in a Fairy Tale Market. But they added characters and a plot to make it better.



Better together

Some things Kevin does well. Some things Barbara does well. Together, they are a great team.

Barbara chose the title for the book. She called it *Once Upon a Parsnip* because it is about fairytale characters and food. She liked the way the word *parsnip* sounded when she said it, so she added parsnips to the story.



Parsnips look like white carrots.

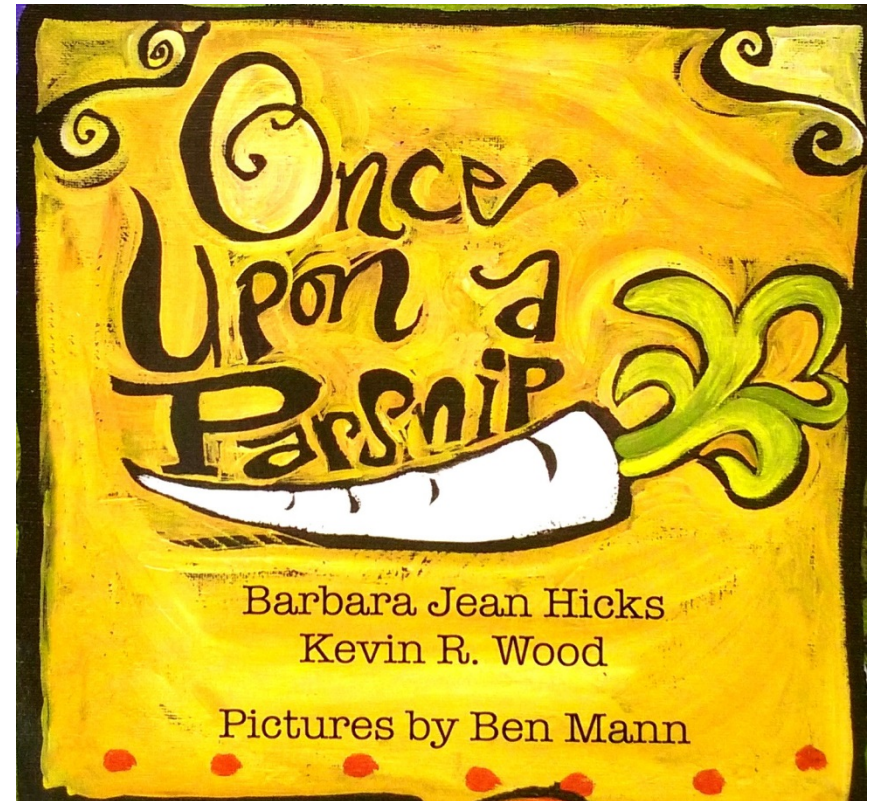


Here is a painting of a parsnip.

Parsnips are good for a snack. You can also use them in recipes. Once Upon a Parsnip has a recipe for apple-parsnip soup in it.

Waiting

Kevin and Barbara worked on their story for over twelve years! Sometimes it takes a long time to reach your goal. Barbara worked very hard to make every word sound just right.



Finally the story was ready. But it couldn't be a picture book without pictures! So Barbara asked her friend, Ben Mann, to be part of their parsnip partnership. You can see the names of all three parsnip partners on the cover of their book.

