

Kid Scoop® .com

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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An Interview with Author Marty Kelley

Marty Kelley has written and illustrated a lot of books for kids! How many books? 33 so far!

Below are the covers of some of them. **Can you number these books in alphabetical order?**



Looking for some books to read?

Marty Kelley's popular chapter book series about Molly Mac and her friend Kayley is about a curious girl. Her curiosity gets her into some sticky and often hilarious situations!



What is Molly Mac's favorite food?

To discover the answer, use the secret code!

■=A ■=E ■=L ■=R ■=U
■=C ■=H ■=N ■=S ■=V
■=D ■=I ■=O ■=T ■=Y

C
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
A
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



Q: Did you always want to write children's books?

A: When I was a kid, I loved to doodle and draw. I made a comic strip for my local newspaper! After high school I went to art school because I wanted to be an animator. Then, I changed my mind about animation. I got interested in teaching and became a second-grade teacher. While teaching I got an idea. By writing and illustrating children's books I could combine two things I love — teaching and drawing.

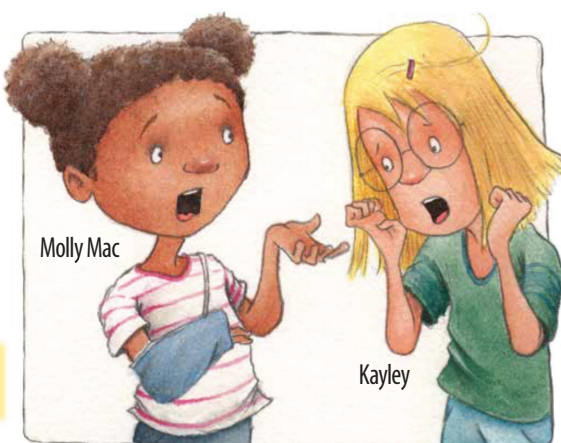
Try drawing Molly Mac. Then draw her again. Try a third time. Did your drawings improve each time?

Q: How long does it take to write a book?

A: It takes me about two to two and a half years to write one book. I do many, many rough drafts! And every new draft gets better and better until it is ready to be published.

Q: Do you have any advice for Kid Scoop readers?

A: Don't be afraid to fail spectacularly! Failure is a chance to learn. Molly Mac makes a lot of mistakes that kids can relate to. And kids like to read about what she learns and how she turns failure into success.



Q: Where do you get your ideas?

A: Sometimes I draw a picture and that gets my imagination going. The idea for the Molly Mac books came from the names of my son's friends. I wanted to write a book about two good friends, and I really liked these names.

Q: What do you like about writing?

A: I love to make people laugh. I still visit classrooms and I love to do that and make children laugh while I teach about writing.

Marty Kelley does school visits via Zoom these days. Learn more about this and his books at www.martykelley.com

Design a book cover.

Imagine you are writing a book about you and your best friend. Think up a title for the book. Then draw the cover in the space at left.



Extra! Extra! Exaggerate!

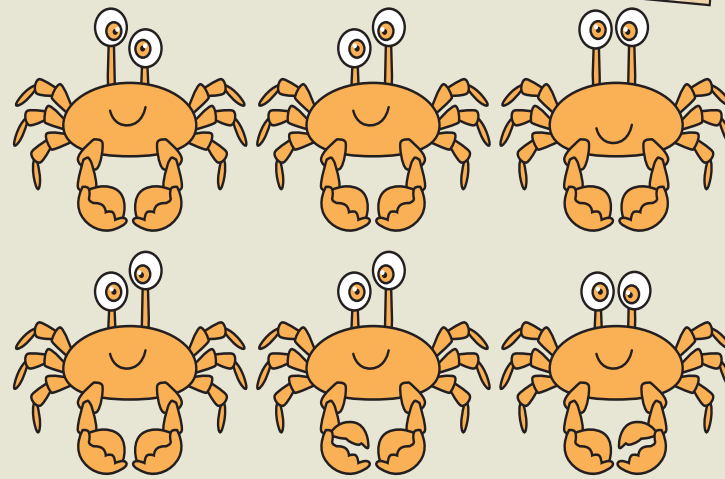
Do adults sometimes tell you to stop exaggerating? Not Marty Kelley. He thinks exaggeration is funny. Look at the newspaper ads. Can you rewrite them so that they really exaggerate their claims?

EXAMPLE:
Big turkeys on sale.
EXAGGERATION:
Turkeys on sale are almost too big to fit through your front door!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Recognize and use adjectives.

Kid Scoop® Puzzler

In Marty Kelley's book *Crustacean Vacation*, things get a little crazy when crabs come out of the ocean. Can you find the two identical crabs below?



Double Double Word Search

CURIOSITY
ANIMATION
FAILURES
CHAPTER
FRIENDS
AUTHOR
DRAFTS
DOODLE
MARTY
COMIC
LOCAL
LAUGH
WRITE
MAC
ART

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

Y T I S O I R U C W
S L O C A L R T R A
E R P A O O O I P F
R E S M H M T U H R
U T L T A E I G A I
L P U R F R U C S E
I A N I M A T I O N
A H E R L I R Y E D
F C E L D O O D S S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

KID SCOOP'S MISSION

Children are born curious.

From their earliest days, sensory exploration brings delight and wonder. New discoveries expand their minds. When they unlock the joy of reading, their world widens further. **Magic happens.**

Kid Scoop opens the doors of discovery for elementary school children by providing interactive, engaging and relevant age-appropriate materials designed to awaken the magic of reading at school, at home, and throughout their lives.

For more information about our literacy non-profit, visit kidscoopnews.org



Kid Scoop Together:

All About You!

Tell about yourself the way Molly does in her books.

All About Me!

Name: Molly Mac
People in my family: Mom
Dad
Deaf baby brother Alex
My best friend: KAYLEY!!!!
A picture of me!
I really like: Crunchy delicious tacos!
But not if they have tomatoes on them.
Yuck! They are squicky and wet.
When I grow up I want to be: An artist. And a famous animal trainer.
And a professional taco taster. And a teacher.
And a super hero. And a lunch lady. And a pirate!
My special memory: Kayley and I camped in my
yard. We made smores with cheese. They
were surprisingly un-delicious.

Draw a picture of yourself.

Name: _____

I really like: _____

When I grow up I want to be: _____

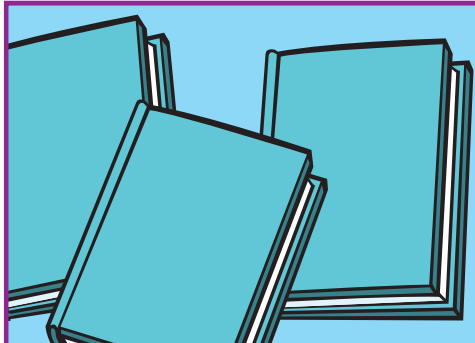
A special memory: _____

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

What a Character!

Select a character in a comic strip. Write three things that describe how this character looks. Then write three things about the personality of this character.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Students write phrases that describe concepts.



When is a blue school book not a blue school book?

ANSWER: When it is red (read)!

Write On!

Author! Author!

Who is your favorite author? Learn three significant things about that person and write about them.

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