Mary Turner’s notes March 2021

I wrote my children’s book of poetry and photos, Amazon Safari, 5 years ago. I designed all the pages myself on Photoshop. I just wrote it for my grandkids, but then other kids wanted it too. After discounts cost it me $22 per book on Shutterfly. Then I investigated having it published.

On the best offer I found the publisher said that they would let me know in about 8 months if they would publish it, and that it would probably take 5 years to get it published if they did. I could expect to make about $8,000. Not too impressive. I really wanted to be able to give it to the kids I knew then.

I found Kindle Direct Publishing, kdp.amazon.com which used to be CreateSpace. They will publish both text or picture books. For my picture book I had to make a batch pdf in Photoshop for all the inside pages, and launch that. Then they gave me a template for the covers and I uploaded them individually. When I had that all done they reviewed it, took about a week or so and then gave me the go ahead to publish. The price was set for $12.99, as low as I could go and still make anything on the book. I can also order them for myself and if I order about 50, I can get them for $4 a copy and give them to kids I know for their birthdays and such. I thought that they turned out beautifully and I can give them away to my heart’s content.

Their website also has a section to prepare the books for e-book, both text and picture books. They have a simple template for the photo style e-books but I haven’t pursued it.

One thing that they advised me was to make the title big enough so that it can be read in the thumbnail size online.