

Portrait Planning Guide

How to Create Timeless Hand-Crafted Storybook Portraits Your Family Will Treasure for Generations

Enchanted Storybooks & Portraits • Denville, New Jersey

Welcome to Your Storybook Portrait Journey

Dear Family,

Thank you for downloading this guide—and for considering creating something truly lasting for your home.

At Enchanted Storybooks in Denville, we create **custom story-driven portrait art designed to live on your walls and in heirloom books for generations.**

Most families who work with us choose to invest between **\$3,000 and \$8,000** in their finished artwork depending on the size and collection they select. Every step is fully guided so you never have to make decisions alone.

This guide will help you begin imagining your story before we design it together.

Warmly,

John Manna

Enchanted Storybooks • Denville, NJ

Why Storybook Fine Art Matters

In homes throughout **Denville, New Jersey and surrounding communities**, families are moving beyond traditional photography and choosing artwork that becomes part of their home's identity.

Storybook fine art offers:

- A lasting legacy your children will grow up with
- Museum-quality wall art designed for your home
- Custom storybook albums that preserve your family story
- A fully guided experience from concept to finished artwork

Unlike standard photography, your images are transformed into **finished artistic pieces designed specifically for display and storytelling.**

The Enchanted Storybooks Experience

Every portrait is a guided, artist-led process designed to create meaningful heirloom artwork.

1. Creative Consultation & Design

We begin by understanding your family, your story, and how you envision your artwork displayed in your home.

We also begin designing your session around **specific wall spaces and rooms in your home.**

2. Guided Portrait Session

A relaxed, intentional session focused on connection, expression, and natural interaction—especially for children and families.

No rushing. No stiff posing. Everything is designed with your final artwork in mind.

3. Artistic Transformation

Your portraits are carefully refined into **storybook-inspired fine art**, with painterly detail and artistic enhancement.

4. Private Reveal & Selection

You return for a private viewing where we reveal your finished images and help you select your wall art and storybook pieces.

Most families choose a combination of:

- statement wall portraits
- multi-image collections
- heirloom storybooks

Planning Your Portrait Experience

Who Will Be Included?

Think beyond just names—consider relationships:

- Immediate family
- Grandparents
- Pets
- Multi-generational groupings

What Story Do You Want to Tell?

Your session is designed around meaning, not poses:

- Childhood wonder and imagination
- Family connection and legacy
- Seasonal magic (including Santa experiences)
- Celebrating milestones and growth

Where Will Your Artwork Live?

This is one of the most important questions.

Common placements include:

- Above a fireplace (statement piece)
- Staircase gallery wall
- Living or family room focal wall
- Hallway storytelling sequence

We design your artwork specifically for these spaces.

Clothing & Styling for Timeless Artwork

Dress as if for a meaningful, elevated occasion.

Think:

- a special dinner
- a wedding as a guest
- a family celebration

What works best:

- Coordinated tones (not matching outfits)
- Soft neutrals, earth tones, or rich classic colors
- Textured fabrics (linen, knits, cotton, silk blends)

Avoid:

- Large logos
- Neon or overly bright colors
- Distracting patterns
- Overly trendy fashion choices

Shoes Matter More Than You Think

Shoes complete the final artwork composition.

Choose:

- Dress shoes, boots, or clean leather footwear for adults
- Simple dress shoes or neutral flats for children

Avoid:

- athletic sneakers
- light-up or character shoes

Grooming & Final Details

Small details elevate your final artwork:

- Haircuts: avoid very fresh cuts right before the session (1–2 weeks is ideal)
- Makeup: soft, natural, timeless styling photographs best
- Accessories: simple, meaningful pieces only

Bring 2–3 outfit options per person so we can refine choices together.

How to Prepare Emotionally (Especially for Children)

Children don't need to "perform"—they just need to feel comfortable.

We encourage:

- Talking about the experience in a positive, simple way

- Allowing children to bring comfort items

- Keeping expectations relaxed and pressure-free

For seasonal sessions like Santa experiences, we offer a **calm, private environment designed specifically for younger or more sensitive children**, allowing them to warm up naturally and enjoy the experience at their own pace.

What Happens After Your Session

Your experience continues beyond the camera:

- Your images are artistically transformed

- You return for a private viewing session

- We help you select the perfect pieces for your home

Most families leave with:

- a statement wall portrait

- a coordinated collection

- a custom storybook heirloom

Ready to Begin?

The next step is simple:

Schedule your consultation so we can design your story together by calling 862-332-4922

Thank You

We're honored to help you create artwork that becomes part of your home—and part of your family's story.

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