

Kelly Kamp, B.A. English Professional Writing, 2009

By Sarah Miller

Graphic Production Assistant, Candlewick Press

Kelly Kamp (2009) is a Western Kentucky University alumna from Somerville, Massachusetts, who graduated with a BA in English. She continued her education at Emerson College in Boston for an MA in publishing and writing. She further

developed her knowledge about professional writing through classes there, eventually settling on a career path in publication design: “The great thing about Emerson is that students could focus on one aspect of publishing or get more of an overview of every aspect of publishing, including marketing, editorial, sales, publicity, and design.”

Kamp’s preparation for her career came from her time at WKU and at Emerson College. “During grad school, I took a multitude of courses that needed a high level of reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills,” she stated. “I also know that my English degree helped me with verbal communication skills. Most importantly, though, it was my time at WKU in the English department that allowed me to find my passion for pursuing a career in English/publishing.”

When asked for her advice for current students pursuing an English degree, Kamp said, “I think the best advice is to do internships or participate in real-world English experiences, even if it is just editing a friend’s papers throughout a semester or writing a blog. It’s good to gain real experience that will make possible employers take notice.” She also suggested getting involved with the Writing Center to gain experience in tutoring and helping others.

After completing an internship as an undergraduate, Kamp went on to participate in several other internships at publishing houses, such as [Da Capo Press](#) and [Nicholas Brealey Publishing](#). She has pursued a career in publishing children’s books and currently works at [Candlewick Press](#) as the graphic production assistant. “My favorite part of working for a publishing company was that I got to see how a book started from a manuscript to a ready-to print file to the physical book,” she said. “It is still exciting



to see the books I worked on in a bookstore and a library.” Kamp has returned to school to pursue a degree in graphic design.

