



*The Night Before Christmas* New York: HarperCollins Publishers, c2002  
[www.maryengelbreit.com/AboutME/AboutMary.aspx](http://www.maryengelbreit.com/AboutME/AboutMary.aspx)

Mary Engelbreit is an incredibly prolific artist. Her art springs from real life, and she is quick to point out, real life just keeps happening. While there is a contemporary aspect to her work, a key to her enduring popularity is the nostalgic quality that pervades it. Mary's art echoes a simpler time for at least two reasons: she has an excellent memory for the details of her childhood, and secondly, she grew up imitating the illustrations in the vintage storybooks that her mother had retained from her own childhood. Thus, Engelbreit virtually apprenticed herself to master illustrators Johnny Gruelle (the creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy) and Jessie Wilcox Smith.

# MARY ENGELBREIT