



I love snow, so I set my story in winter. That way, I could make the original story's castle an ice palace.

After looking at photos of ornate buildings in Russia, we went to St. Petersburg and Novgorod, Russia to see the onion domed buildings that fired my imagination.

Our guide Katya showed us around the countryside where we saw exquisite art, museums displaying traditional ball gowns, and theaters presenting ballet, folk dancing and balalaika music.

At night, we ate delicious Russian dishes and even took a "Banya"—hot steambath.

A fancifully painted sleigh from the Russian Museum of Ethnography served as a model for the "Pumpkin Sleigh" in my book. The wooden arch to my left is part of a traditional horse harness. A typical Russian set-up is a three-horse hitch, called a troika. In *Cinders*, I have Swedish ducks pulling the sleigh.

Kokoshink
(headdress)

A traditional Russian dress style is the sarafan. It has straps, and is worn over an embroidered blouse. The headdress can be very elaborate, and is fashioned into many different shapes according to the region in which it is worn.



Balalaika
A traditional
stringed
instrument



The timber style architecture of the "Izba" or log house we saw in Novgorod looked like it came from a fairy tale.

The horse-head carving on the gable I painted below was meant to give luck to the house.

Scan this code with your smart phone's QR reader and Jan Brett will show you how to draw Cinders.

