

Illustrated by CRAIG SMITH

My presentations are about books and pictures ...

... what authors, editors, and illustrators do...

but the main focus is **drawing!**

WHERE to begin?

WHAT to keep in mind?

HOW to make choices?

Plus **TIPS** for bringing characters to life with movement and expression, humour and drama.

With **LOTS** of hands-on learning - by -drawing!

Within a session, to explore the questions above students are guided through a fun exercise. Starting in a deliberately loose, rough, sketchy way, students draw the simple structural shapes first, while thinking through the choices, and playfully trying out imaginative, dramatic and humorous ideas.

The choices I see as most important are to do with:

- characterization (including where and when a story is set),
- choosing the moment to draw,
- choosing a viewpoint, arranging shapes in space,
- movement and expression (body language),
- using light and shadow...

Every session is a bit different, but each is - at least in part - a workshop. Students will be drawing, and trying out pointers in a guided way within the session. Thus all students experience how an illustration begins to take shape. The tasks are age appropriate from pre-school to senior.



'Thank you so much. I enjoyed every moment of the wonderful lesson, I learnt so much I can't write it on my page ... It was epic'

Travis (Aubin Grove)

"I enjoyed learning how to draw things that I thought were hard before."

"I am not a good drawer but he made it fun and kept it simple so I could understand and try."



Over a 40-odd year career I have illustrated over 390 books - picture books, junior novels and readers - collaborating with many of Australia's most experienced writers and editors.

Writers include **Doug MacLeod, Paul Jennings, Libby Gleeson, Duncan Ball, Emily Rodda, Gary Crew, Sally Morgan, Rachel Flynn, Nigel Gray, Gillian Rubinstein, Phil Kettle ...**

Books include **Bungawitta, Billy the Punk, Where's Mum?, Sister Madge's Book of Nuns, Bob the Builder & the Elves, Cat, Emily Eyefinger (series), Cabbage Patch Fib (series), Toocool (series), I Hate Fridays (series).**



More recently **The Unforgettable What's His Name, The Windy Farm, Heather Fell In the Water, Some Secrets Should Never Be Kept, Gus Dog Goes To Work, Doctor Frankenstein's Other Monster, and I Was Only Nineteen,** with words and music by John Schumann.



SESSION INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS:

PICTURE THIS

AN ILLUSTRATION TUTORIAL ...

My presentations are about books and pictures – the role of the author, and editor and illustrator. But it is especially about making things up by hands-on **DRAWING!**

The following format works from Junior Primary through to early High School. For Preps it is more about drawing for fun, but still with lots of pointers!

- The presentation starts by reviewing a small group of finished illustrations. This introduces my personal approach, and also encourages the students to look into the picture with curiosity.
- It continues with a quick sketched drawing to introduce some of the basics of the illustrator's toolkit. (These large free-wheeling drawings remain at the school).
- Then the focus shifts to a guided drawing exercise for all students.
- Minimal requirements for this are a greylead pencil, an A4 sheet of photcopy paper and something to rest it on. An eraser is useful but not essential.
- The point of this fun exercise is to methodically explore: character development, viewpoint, movement & expression - particularly body language.
- * The exercise is often based on **Doctor Frankenstein's Other Monster** by Nigel Gray. An associated tutorial booklet is available as a recap, and extension, of a school visit.
- However there are several variations to this example. The aim is to have a variety of drawing experiences for the different groups over a school day.

BOOKING INFORMATION:

All enquiries welcome. Please feel free to contact me directly for information on available dates and costs.

Or for your convenience, perhaps familiarity, arrangements can be made for schools right around Australia through the following recommended agencies:

BOOKED OUT
bookedout.com.au

LATERAL LEARNING
(mainly NSW)
laterallearning.com.au

CAROLE CARROLL
(mainly SA & Qld)
literaryaustralia.com.au

NEXUS ARTS
nexusarts.com

Terms are roughly in accord with Australian Society of Authors (ASA) standard rates, with a variation if there is significant travel costs. Travel, particularly driving around regional and rural Australia, is very welcome.

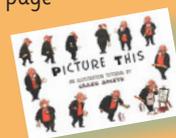


BOOK SALES:

Generally, my books are not available to purchase at a school visit.

However if the school prefers - a selection of titles can be made available for sale with prior arrangement. Alternatively, a favourite bookshop can partner with the school to facilitate book sales. Purchased books can be inscribed for each student on the day. Books can also be purchased through my website (via email), or check out [The Kid's Bookshop](#) or [INT Books](#).

***Doctor Frankenstein's Other Monster** and **PICTURE THIS An Illustration Tutorial** are available as companion volumes. More info is on the BookStore page of my website.



Sampling of images from
PICTURE THIS An Illustration Tutorial