## Book Week All-Year-Round and Covid Update

## Online and all-year-round (later 2021 update)

Remote learning is the lived experience of many kids today. Keeping children learning and on track is complex. Well done, teachers. And parents.

From a southern states perspective it is not clear what the immediate future holds for schools. But school life goes on.

## To bring the skills and insights of authors & illustrators into schools - one way with growing familiarity is to use video conferencing.

For instance, in the pre-Covid past I've avoided using smartboards in favour of drawing in charcoal on huge sheets of paper. This works well. But now, an online presentation is a mix of webcam live streaming and ®PowerPoint screen sharing. The strengths of this are:

- An SLR camera is set up as an overhead webcam linking through to a school smartboard. This allows for crisp, clear video when demonstrating.
- Screen-sharing PowerPoint content can help keep the presentation stay on track and on time.

There is a downside. Free-flowing to and fro with students is not easy in class groups. It is difficult to *read* the online classroom! Checking the connection beforehand is usual but tech and connectivity problems do occur, and need to be dealt with on the go.

All things considered, an online presentation works. Available all-year-round, right around the country.

- Please contact me directly to answer any other queries.
- For your convenience or familiarity, you may prefer to use a booking agency. Please contact me for more details & updates. craig@craigsmithillustration.com

## **More Session Information**

The presentation emphasises drawing for storytelling. Every session is in part a workshop. All participants will draw their way to a satisfying outcome, not always a beautiful drawing, but having a go at translating a rough idea into a lively image. I believe that drawing is a form of thinking. Picturing things is one pathway to understanding.

But the picture does *not* need to be neat!

- The three part format (PowerPoint intro, draft drawing, guided drawing) can work well through all school stages. I am happy to discuss approaches to suit a school's particular needs.
- The PP presentations are curated by themes and appropriate to year levels.
- My in-school experience includes *Zoom, Webex, Teams, Skype,* and *Blackboard Collaborate.* Happy to discuss.
- My drawings from a session will be available to a school (in pdf format)

