

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

Travis, Aubin Grove WA



*Billy the Punk* written by Jessica Carroll 1995

## School Visit Session Information

The presentation is about the questions an illustrator faces in composing an illustration, and modelling a way to work it all out.

**Where to begin? What to keep in mind? What to include?**

**What to conceal? How to make choices?**

Plus tips for bringing a picture to life with movement, expression, humour and drama. Of course with **LOTS** of hands-on-drawing!

Craig's aim is to make the process of composing a picture inventive, but logical as well.

The session explores: characterisation, *when* and *where* a story is set, choosing *what moment* to draw, choosing a *viewpoint*, arranging the main shapes on the picture plane, thinking about expressive *movement* and *body language*, using light and shadow.

## Tutorial Outline

- A session begins with a brief show and tell of some artwork.
- Then, a rapidly drawn *draft* charcoal illustration. This highlights the under-drawing upon which detail and emphasis is later added.
- Following that, a fun drawing exercise for students. In response to a short text, students are guided to draw in a deliberately rough, sketchy way - starting with broader, simple shapes first - then developing characterisation, and linking ideas.
- If **online**, the shape of the tutorial remains the same.

## Session Requirements

- Sessions can be adjusted to suit timetables, ages and numbers.
- *For students:* Greylead pencil (2B preferred), A4 or A3 paper, and clipboard.
- *For Craig:* A whiteboard, or smartboard, from the school.  
Craig will supply all other materials he uses.

## About Craig Smith

Craig has illustrated more than 400 books over 40 years – picture books, chapter books and lots of educational readers – working with many of Australia's most experienced writers and editors.

Writers include Paul Jennings, Doug MacLeod, Libby Gleeson, Sally Morgan, Duncan Ball, Emily Rodda, Gary Crew, Gillian Rubinstein, Rachel Flynn, Nigel Gray, Diane Jackson-Hill and many more.

The books include *Billy the Punk*, *Where's Mum?*, *The Windy Farm*, *Bob the Builder & the Elves*, *Emily Eyefinger* (series), *I Hate Fridays* (series), *Cabbage Patch Fib* (series), *Toocool* (series), *Going Bush With Grandpa* (series), *I Was Only Nineteen* and *Chooks In Dinner Suits* (winner of the 2017 Wilderness Society Picture Book Award).

The most recent picture book is *Saving Seal - The plastic predicament* by Diane Jackson Hill (Museum Victoria, late 2021)

In recent years Craig has travelled to many schools throughout Australia. This travel, mostly by driving, builds on Craig's passion to picture the countryside and its people - urban, rural and remote - in all its breadth.

He says, 'To my mind, the Australian people are in the midst of a huge multicultural and diversity push. This push for new voices is evident in many ways, and experienced by different people in different ways. It seems to me that mainstream children's publishing aims to reinforce the cohesion holding us together. My view is that empathetic, gently satirical and humorous storytelling is a way of balancing these tensions out.'



## Feedback

"So much of the focus for kids who struggle with literacy is often on the text, Craig was able to show that meaning is so rich and nuanced in his illustrations and that we can all 'think like an artist'. This was the most valuable and engaging professional development I've had for ages – and what made it better is that my students and I both developed simultaneously. Please offer this to other schools Craig!"

*Jonathon Cartwright, St Joseph's PS, Collingwood VIC*

"He has such a fresh creative approach and relates well with the students. He was receptive to what we were trying to achieve and the teachers (all six of them) were really happy with his presentations in support of the visual literacy unit."

*Su Allen Balwyn PS, VIC*

"The students were engaged throughout the whole session. They particularly enjoyed the hands-on drawing experience. Craig's support materials were good and varied."

*Jane Salter, Warracknabeal PS, VIC*

"Very professional presentation. Showed awareness of audience needs and respected their input. Very positive reaction from students – attentive and comfortable to ask questions and respond. Pace, volume, tone and content all age appropriate for 9-11 year olds, great demonstration and activity went very well."

*Graeme Adams, Murtoa College, VIC*

"It was a great challenge for the kids... they understood the end product so they were completely engaged. They learnt many new art skills ... It was fantastic! It opened up my eyes to see my students require encouragement in the arts... the only improvement or advice would be PLEASE come again really soon!"

*Brooke Bethune, Woolianna NT*



*Book making workshop (with Erica Wagner) Woolianna PS*



*Bowral PS*

"All students were enthralled and amazed by Craig's expertise. He gave the children belief in their own artistic talent. All sessions were pertinent and age appropriate. All students were totally engaged in the activities."

*Jo Rickard, Portland North PS, VIC*

"The students loved it! They were engaged, enthused and certainly enjoyed the presentation and the drawing. Craig's passion for what he does is very clear and this just adds to his obvious talent. A great session and I would highly recommend him to other schools. Thank you!!"

*Ben Tait, Minyip PS, VIC*

"He kept the children enthralled with his entertaining manner and the creation of his drawings. They were especially delighted with their ability to create their own characters in their own drawings. Craig's visit was a most educational and memorable experience."

*L Kennedy, Swan Reach PS, VIC*

"Students and teachers enjoyed and gained a lot from your presentation. The tech side worked well, except for some minor lag issues. The themes of, show - don't tell, characterisation, planning an illustration were particularly useful. Overall I thought it was a real success and to be honest worked a lot better than I thought it might!"

*Jane Moran, St Ignatius, SA (After a day of Zoom presentations)*

### Booking Info

All enquiries welcome. Bookings can be made for schools right around Australia, including regional and remote areas.

For updated information, including Covid restrictions, please get in touch directly at:

**E | [craig@craigsmithillustration.com](mailto:craig@craigsmithillustration.com)**

**M | 0409 222 394**

**W | [www.craigsmithillustration.com](http://www.craigsmithillustration.com)**

Booking Agency details available on request

