

## An Illustration Tutorial with

# CRAIG SMITH

"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

Craig's presentations are about looking into pictures, but the focus is on the process of drawing for storytelling.

**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 for Teachers

- 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.
- A drawing exercise for students in response to a short text. Students are guided to draw in a deliberately rough, sketchy way, arranging some broader, simple shapes first, then developing and linking ideas. In this way students can experience how an illustration takes shape.

### 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 from the school (not a smartboard). Craig will supply all other materials.

### 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 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).

- A complete *bibliography* is available to download at: [craigsmithillustration.com](http://craigsmithillustration.com)

### From Craig

"A recurring theme of my work is an identifiably Australian childhood. A childhood lived in an Australian landscape – often, but not always – a suburb!

In recent years I have been to schools right around Australia. From Bourke (NSW) to Balwyn (VIC), Coober Pedy (SA) to Corrigin (WA), Darwin (NT) to Daradgee (QLD), Longreach (QLD) to Launceston (TAS).

My experience of schools around the country reminds me of how different we are, and how much we are the same.

I am eager for children to learn with real curiosity, with humour, with imagination and with empathy. For many people drawing is a way of thinking. Pictures are a way of understanding"

*Craig Smith*

## 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*

## General Book Sales and Signing

- If book sales are desired, Craig can supply a pre-order form for a limited range of titles.  
Please contact Craig directly for more info on this.
- Or you may wish to contact your favourite bookseller.

## Booking Info

All enquiries welcome. Bookings can be made for schools right around Australia, including regional and remote areas. For updated information, please get in touch directly at :

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More School Visit information is available at:

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

Booking Agency details available.