



An Introduction to Creating Picture Books

This is a friendly, informal beginner's course for adults. You will learn the essentials of creating picture books for 0-6 year olds, which appeal to the contemporary market. The unique setting of the House of Illustration provides access to the exhibition galleries for drawing and visual research.

During the course you will:

- Gain an overview of the market & advice on getting published
- Learn how to create stories with convincing characters
- Experiment with a range of appropriate artistic mediums
- Explore narrative themes, structures & writing styles
- Learn how to storyboard your book with compelling layouts
- Learn how to make a book dummy to send to publishers
- Receive one to one & group feedback on your work
- Free entry to the House of Illustration galleries for the duration of the course

Course Schedule

Lesson 1	Course Introduction; Discussing Classic Picture Books; Tapping into Childhood.
Lesson 2	Exploring Text: Narrative Structures, Themes & Writing Styles
Lesson 3	Creating Successful Characters & Collaging Animal Characters.
Lesson 4	Character Expression & Creating Images with Meaning
Lesson 5	How Text & Image Work Together; Layouts, Sequences & Storyboards
Lesson 6	Claire's Show of Work & How to Make a Book Dummy
Lesson 7	How to Paint Using Watercolour
Lesson 8	How to Paint Using Acrylic
Lesson 9	The Publishing Industry & Self-Promotion; What, When & How to Send Work to Publishers and Agents
Lesson 10	End of Course Group Feedback Session

House of Illustration

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Relevant Experience

The course is for beginners, although some experience of drawing or writing is recommended, as well as a strong enthusiasm for picture books!

Materials you will need & what to bring to the first class:

Please bring a 2B pencil, eraser, pen (biro), A3 Sketch pad, notebook, slim A4 ring binder. (An A3 portfolio to carry your artwork and art materials is optional)

Please feel free to bring along any relevant work previously created. However, this is a beginners' course, so please do not worry if you have nothing to bring. Claire will be there to inspire ideas throughout the course.

About the Tutor

Claire Alexander is an author/illustrator based in London. She recently completed book collaborations with writer Sean Taylor, illustrating *Humperdink Our Elephant Friend* and *The Snowbear*. Her other recent books include *The Best Bit of Daddy's Day*, *Millie Shares* and *Monkey and the Little One*, the latter shortlisted for the 2015 Junior Design Awards and listed as one of the top ten best new picture books of the year by the Independent Book Sellers Association. A previous book *Back to Front and Upside Down*, dealing with the subject of dyslexia, won an American Library Association award in 2013. Her other titles include *Small Florence*, *Lost in the Snow*, *That's When I Knew* and *Lucy & the Bully* which also won an award in the US. Claire studied Fine Art at the Kent Institute of Art and Design and has a BA honors degree in Painting. She studied Illustration at Putney School of Art and has been teaching her own picture book courses for over ten years.

Course Details:

Time: 7pm-9.30pm Tuesdays

Dates: 23rd April – 2nd July 2019. (There will be no lesson during half term on 28th May)

Venue: House of Illustration, 2 Granary Square, King's Cross, London N1C 4BH

Contact: education@houseofillustration.org.uk

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