



An Introduction to Creating Picture Books with Claire Alexander

On this five day intensive summer school for adult beginners, you will learn the essentials of creating picture books for 0-6 year olds with contemporary market appeal. As an author illustrator, Claire teaches both writing and illustration in this specialist area. Creating a dummy book takes longer than a week, but this course will inspire you with new ideas, introduce you to relevant literary and artistic techniques and equip you with the commercial knowledge to take your ideas further in a successful direction. 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 a 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
- The opportunity of enrolling on Claire's intermediate level evening course where you can develop your book idea further and present it to a visiting publisher and agent at the end of the course

Course Schedule

Day 1 Course and Tutor Introduction, Discussing Classic Picture Books, Exploring Text: Narrative Structures, Themes & Writing Styles

Day 2 Creating Successful Characters & Collaging Characters
Expression & Creating Images with Meaning

Day 3 Text & Image; Layouts, Sequences, Storyboards & Book Dummies

Day 4 Acrylic and Watercolour painting techniques

Day 5 The Publishing Industry & Self-Promotion; What, When & How to Send Work to

House of Illustration

2 Granary Square

King's Cross, London N1C 4BH

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Publishers and Agents, End of Course Group Feedback Session

Relevant Experience

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

Testimonials

'Claire's an inspirational teacher and has been incredibly supportive over the past few years. Her courses are fantastic for focusing on specific skills and are always tailored to include the things most relevant to the students' own projects and aspirations. There is plenty of encouragement and advice on getting your work out there. I've been on several of her courses!'

Loretta Schauer, signed by literary agents Darley Anderson, subsequently published by Little Tiger Press, Paragon and Hapercollins

'I was so impressed with your students – their work put some college courses to shame. I have so many illustrators who apply to join my agency who would benefit from your tuition.'

Lorraine Owen, The Organisation Illustration Agency

Course Details:

Times: 10am – 4pm

Dates: 31st July – 4th August 2017

Fee: £450 (paid in advance, non-returnable)

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

Contact: Valentina Zunino education@houseofillustration.org.uk

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 or plastic wallet to carry your artwork and art materials is recommended)

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 new ideas throughout the course.

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About the Tutor

Claire Alexander is an author/ illustrator based in London. Her latest books published by Egmont *The Best Bit of Daddy's Day*, 2016 and *Monkey and the Little One*, 2015 were both listed as best new picture books of the year by the Independent Book Sellers Association. Previously, *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 two awards in the US. Claire studied Fine Art at the Kent Institute of Art and Design and has a BA honours degree in Painting. She studied Illustration at Putney School of Art and is an experienced teacher with a City and Guilds qualification.



Materials supported by Cass Art

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