

Mark Wilson

75-90 min. Workshop Outline

(Picturebook making program designed in consultation with individual schools)

The primary aim is to stimulate imagination and powers of observation. Students discuss picture-books and also learn about animal welfare and wildlife conservation. The workshops are structured to stimulate creativity and increase the student's confidence in their own ability.

Sessions are simplified and shortened a little for preps and juniors if requested.

A single session includes:

A brief introduction to writing and illustrating picture books.

A brief reading of 'The Last Tree' and an introduction to my other picturebooks, followed by a discussion about animal welfare and conservation, particularly endangered species and native habitat. We also discuss being proactive-things individuals can do, locally and in the wider community. We also discuss how I cover these themes in my picturebooks.

Quick drawing exercises

to stimulate powers of imagination and recall. They are also a lot of fun.

Extended drawing exercise

We draw together a chosen species from one of my books, depending on the age group. We work through the structure of the drawing, each step at a time using line, shape, texture and color to experience how illustrations develop. As we progress through the exercise, students learn about that species.

Times and materials

Sessions are 75 minutes with a maximum of three per day.

Example; First session is 9.30 - 10.40. Second session is 11.10 - 12.20, then a third session starting at 12.50 - 2.00. This can be adjusted to suit the particular school, program or festival. Maximum of 35 students per session.

I supply all materials; Pencils, paper, sharpener.

Sessions are preferably held in a room with tables such as the library (surrounded by books adds to the atmosphere) or an art room. If not, backing boards for drawing are required if students are to sit on the floor.