



# Illustrating Children's Books: Creating Pictures for Publication

*Martin Salisbury*

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## **Illustrating Children's Books: Creating Pictures for Publication** Martin Salisbury

The successful book illustrator starts by understanding his author's flight of fancy, then rendering the ideas and actions imaginatively in pictorial terms. This unusual and inspiring book was written for art students and ambitious beginners. It instructs on methods of developing both imaginative powers and the technical artistic skills to produce high quality illustrations that will please authors and children's book editors.

Separate chapters focus on:

Media, materials, and techniques

Developing different drawing styles to fit specific storytelling methods

Instilling visual personality traits in story characters

Creating effective sequential images for storyboards and picture book outlines

Design, typography, and preparation for print

Illustrating story books for older children

Illustrating nonfiction and educational books

Breaking into the children's book publishing business

Here is solid, practical instruction for students of book illustration, enhanced with more than 250 how-to illustrations in color and black-and-white.

## **Illustrating Children's Books: Creating Pictures for Publication Details**

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# **From Reader Review Illustrating Children's Books: Creating Pictures for Publication for online ebook**

## **Debbie Hoskins says**

This was recommended by quality published children's book illustrators. I love the cover. Actually bought a copy, but I think it will stay in the basement until I throw it out and move into an old lady residence - condo?

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## **Sally says**

I wanted to get an overview of what is involved in creating a book for publication and this satisfied that very well. This book by Martin Salisbury is paced very well, with a lot of examples of different illustrators and approaches. He is very knowledgeable about the craft, business and is an illustrator himself. If you are hoping to get an in-depth treatise on illustration, then this book isn't for you. You may be better off looking at "Writing with Pictures: How to Write and Illustrate Children's Books" by Uri Schulevitz (written in 1985).

I will probably use this book as a reference - it is very good to flip through and get some ideas if you are trying to do some illustrating and are stuck.

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## **Candelar says**

I know so little about the field of illustration that, to me, this book was awesome! Tons of information, style description, colorful examples, and even some tips to get published. I definitely learned more on the topic than I ever expected.

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## **Josh Anderson says**

This book is very thorough and can guide someone from the history of Children's Books, to how to draw and use various mediums and techniques all the way through attempting to get published. It's giving me a lot of starting points and showed me what I need to work on in my own endeavors in illustration.

The one drawback, at least for someone like me, is that I don't seek a book like this to learn how to draw or paint, but in order to know what steps I need to take to get published. This book just touched on that at the very end of the book. It's good info, but there are still questions when you're done reading the book.

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## **Lilly says**

This is a nice, thorough book detailing many aspects of illustration for children's books - from a history of the medium to various artistic techniques and industry advice. It's fascinating and has lots of cool little footnotes and annotations peppered in to give it a nice coffee table book/journal combo feel. A great overview with plenty of varied and beautiful illustrations to look at.

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### **Jennifer says**

This book is an enjoyable general overview of illustration, with everything from a history of picture books to various illustration techniques. I particularly like his ideas about observational drawing and transforming those ideas into stories, and the chapter on character development.

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### **Linda Robinson says**

This is a synopsis guide for the student artist. I have yet to get that if a book has color throughout, and is a teaching tool, the print is going to be hard to read. There was a lot of thought given to design of the interior, and that makes it harder to read. This is a taste of various media, with plentiful examples of sketching on location, from memory, motion studies; but there is too much "everything you ever wanted to know about pictures" in one book. The art tends preponderously to the Golden Age style of illustration, although the copyright date is 2004. The credits are a nightmare - try searching for the book referenced on page 47 with an illustration by Graham Handley. For a beginner, a student, a person interested in the field, this book is a dandy catchall, if you're looking for an overview.

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### **Rachel Groves says**

Very inspiring books with case studies and examples. Interesting for a novice to get some idea of what is involved and covers lots of topics perhaps not in great depth or detail though.

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### **Tandava Brahmachari says**

I skimmed some of the parts that I knew I wasn't interested in or that didn't apply to me, but overall there's a lot of good stuff in here. Lots of examples not only of published illustrations but also of preliminary sketches, mock-ups, etc. This makes it also a good source for illustrator names to go find at the library for further investigation. I would have liked more in-depth coverage on some topics and less on others, but it actually does a very good job of evenly covering probably every aspect of the job.

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### **Kate Merriman says**

Beautifully printed, lots of wonderful visuals and inspiration in this book.

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### **Kaitlin says**

read for college

**Belcky says**

Well-rounded book that has a bit of everything from history to publishing, even if it is a bit dated now.

This was never required reading in college, but it was recommended and the instructors did provide us with excerpts. I liked the excerpts so I bought the text, though I was too busy to ever read it through until now. Turns out the excerpts held all the most enlightening parts, and I personally found the rest of the book had too much focus on drawing from life and different types of media... things that are, for someone who's been through art school, a bit redundant (though I agree they are important for any illustration career). If you're looking for a book that deals specifically with how to get published alone, I'd say pick up a *Writer's Market* or join the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and browse their online content.

I wish I had read it in my first couple of years of art school. Students and new hobbyists would find it useful, so I would still recommend it.

**Rachelle says**

I would give this book an even higher rating, but 'Writing with Pictures' trumps it as a comprehensive overview of narrative illustration, so it gets a well-deserved four-star silver.

### Sebah Al-Ali says

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"At the Cambridge School of Art it was drummed into us that we should not move, eat, drink, or sleep without a sketchbook in the hand. Consequently, the habit of looking and drawing became as natural as breathing."

--Ronald Searle

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## **Rob says**

A great book if you're interesting in illustrating children's books (and seriously, good luck). This book breaks down many of the aspects you need to consider when illustrating for books. Each chapter it loaded with illustrations and examples of what you should do. There are also several case studies featuring successful illustrators, giving insights into their methods.

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