

Introduction

Hello and welcome to the Illustrating Children's Books Course

My name is **Maggy Roberts** and I will be your tutor on the course.

At various point through the course there are **assignments made up of either exercises or sample briefs or both**. These are aimed at helping you to devleop.

You may submit assignment material to me via the college website using the simple instructions or video explanation. If you need assistance please contact tech support. If you send your artwork to me please use a suitably sized, strong reinforced envelope that can also be used to return work to you - and don't forget to include stamps for return postage. Check out Post Office approved sizes before you start – this can save a lot in postage.

I will provide a written critique for each assignment submission.

If you have any other queries these can generally be addressed as part of the course but you may find that the student blog is helpful in dealing with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) or generally sharing experiences and chatting with other students from all over the world. Just follow the instructions on the web site for using passwords etc.

The following is the basic list of materials that will be required to complete the course but you may wish to supplement it as you proceed. As far as suppliers are concerned, all of the recognised art suppliers have ranges that extend from student quality to professional and the price increases accordingly. Student quality materials in a recognised brand are usually preferable to cheaper, poorer quality materials sold in some High St. stores but with some items this is less relevant. If you approach your local art supplier and tell them you are on a course they may be prepared to offer you a discount. If you have a birthday or other celebration approaching you might let friends know what you would like – a sort of art course wedding list!

I aim to provide you with as much useful criticism and positive advice as possible but don't be disheartened if things do not work out as you would like them. I often do work more than once because I have learnt something from doing it the first time that can be used to improve it in a second version. You can only make progress in relation to your own starting point. Some people will start with a higher level of existing skills and progress rapidly through the course; others will need to take more time. It will be a challenge but hopefully an enjoyable one.

BLEED – TRIM AND CROP MARKS

When we set out to create artwork to completely fit onto the book page, we must create it larger than the page size of the book.

The finished book size is called the **TRIM** size

So that we don't get white edges on the pages we must create artwork that is **5mm bigger** all round the edges of the trim size of the book.



We add this 5mm of extra painted image which is known as **BLEED**. I have coloured this bleed area red in this image to show what it looks like, but don't colour yours red!



You should add trim/crop marks outside the image area like the ones on this image.



Then the printer will know that they should trim off the extra 5mm to make the artwork fit the book size, like this:



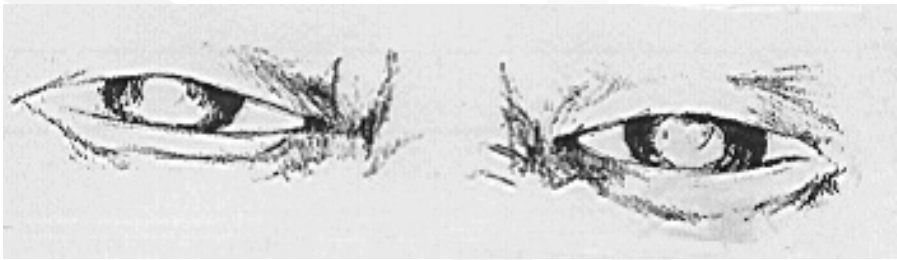
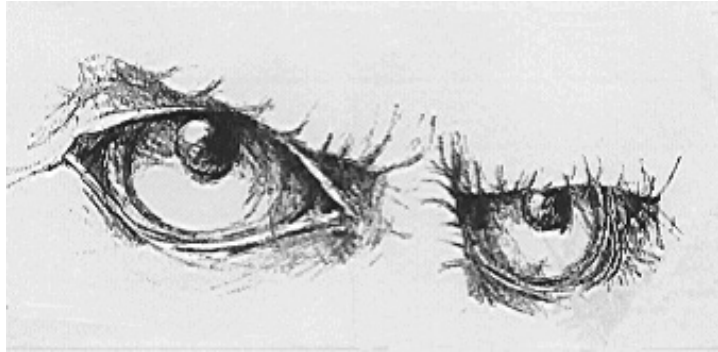
Your marked up image should have marks like this one:vv



FACES, FINGERS AND FEET

Fantasy people seem to have three blueprints according to film makers - humanoid, insect and reptile.

Humanoid eyes have to be set in sockets in a skull, but the shape of the skull may be different and therefore the variety of possibilities is increased.

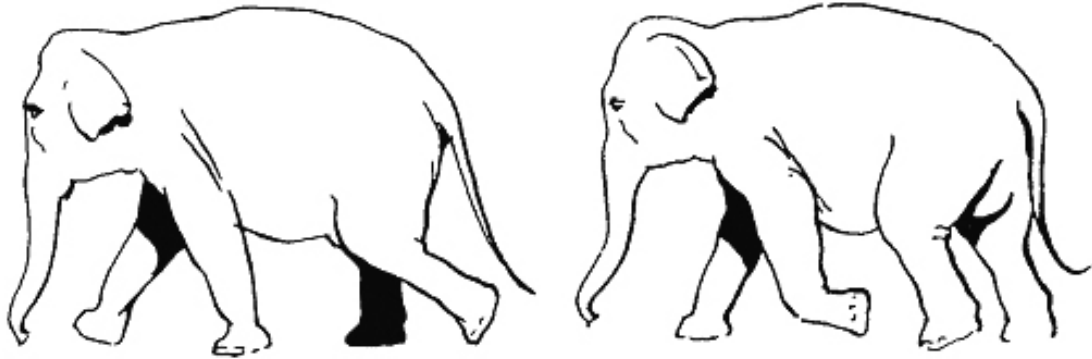


Ears and fingers can be distorted to any shape but keep the structure in mind - it needs to be a combination of firm cartilage and soft tissue - keep the textures different.



Make your drawings more of less the same size as the ones shown here.

Now look at this drawing of elephants.



Draw them as well, but change the direction of movement. Try changing the angle of the trunks, the ear or leg position. Make sure that the animals look as if they are moving in a natural way.

Then, using your drawing, or a tracing, put these elephants together into a herd. Add some dust coming up from the feet. Give an indication of sky and landscape in the background.

Have you produced a convincing resemblance of the whole herd?

Now produce a drawing of any domestic animal - a cat, dog or guinea pig. Or if there is a zoo near you, you might like to spend some happy hours drawing there.

You may want to start with simple line drawings, but do try pen and wash too.

The more you practise the better you will become.

