



# ***Classic Children's Book Illustration***

Fall Semester  
Academic Year 2022/23



## **ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:**

**Rising 7th - 12th graders:** *Previous painting or drawing experience is not necessary for this course. We will begin with foundational skills and slowly build in complexity. A sense of wonder, creative courage, and perseverance are beneficial postures for flourishing in this course.*

**Class Start Date:** September 6, 2022

**Orientation Session:** Week of August 30, 2022

**End date:** January 20, 2023

**Section 1 Class Times:** Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11:00- 12:15 (EST)

**Instructor:** Ms. Sara Silkwood

**E-mail:** sarasilkwood@gmail.com

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## **SCHEDULE FOR CLASSIC CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATION:**

### **CLASS SESSIONS DATES:**

**Classes will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 16 weeks and 32 classes \***

*\*Please note the above dates and times are the anticipated class sessions for this course. However, all dates are subject to change as the instructor's circumstances might dictate (e.g. illness, family emergency). Any classes canceled by the instructor will be made up at an alternate time designated by the instructor.*

## ***CLASSIC CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATION* COURSE MAP:**

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### **Quarter 1**

1. E.H. Shepard and the Winnie-the-Pooh Illustrations
2. Master copies and study
3. Drawing
4. Storytelling with black and white

### **Quarter 2**

1. Beatrix Potter illustrations and artwork
2. Master copies and study
3. Painting
4. Storytelling with paint

**OFFICE HOURS:** In addition to scheduled class times, I will be available to meet with students and parents by appointment to answer questions or review class material.

### **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:**

#### **Drawing Section**

- Set of drawing pencils
- Kneaded eraser
- Sketchbook
- Pencil sharpener
- Micron pens or other ink pens
- Bristol board drawing paper pad
- Ruler
- Drawing board
- Blue painters tape

#### **Painting Section**

- Set of watercolor paints
- Watercolor palette
- Several watercolor brushes of varying sizes (round, flat)
- Water cup
- Watercolor paper pad

- Watercolor paper for final projects
- Rags or paper towels

#### Optional

- Set of colored pencils
- Apron to keep clothing clean
- Small spray bottle
- Masking fluid

#### Brushes

You will want at least 2 short handled round brushes, a size 2 and a size 8 ([like these](#)). Robert Simmons White Sable brushes are another option ([Link](#)). A 1/2" to 1" flat or mop brush is a great option to have, but not required.

#### Palette

Paint palettes come in several different styles. This [Jerry Q watercolor set](#) is a great for beginner students with all the colors you would need to start painting. I've included a sample shopping list at the end of this overview from Blick, an online art supply store. There are **2 different empty palette options on this list** - an open studio palette and a folding travel version. Pick whichever style you prefer (or a different one)! The colors listed are the basic colors I recommend (**all of these colors are already included in the Jerry Q palette**).

\*Use the following list as an example shopping list. Please note that **it is OK if you decide to purchase other brands/variations of these materials**.

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### ***CLASSIC CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATION* COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

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Are there stories within you that you would like to tell? Learn to illuminate your very own narrative in the style of beloved children's books with the help of this course. We will discover why these beautiful illustrations exude warmth, kindness, and creativity, and then will adapt their simple yet timeless style to our own personal masterpieces.

What is it about those classic children's book illustrations that open a door to another world? One where we can imagine tromping through the Hundred Acre Wood with Christopher Robin, or waltzing through an English Cottage Garden on the heels of Benjamin Bunny? While it could take a lifetime to fully understand the magical grasp these little images have on us, this fall we will begin that journey! We will explore how a stroke of the pen can open the imagination, our memories, and even whole new worlds.

We will begin our studies by focusing on the illustrations of E.H. Shepard's *Winnie-the-Pooh* and the paintings, drawings and illustrations of Beatrix Potter, the author and illustrator of the beloved *Peter Rabbit* book series.

We will study their art and pictures and begin to articulate what it might be that sets these works apart. From there we will begin creating characters and narratives of our own, taking cues from the worlds around us—as they did from theirs—and using this as a basis for our own illustrations. While we won't be able to do all our hearts desire in one semester, we will put ourselves on a path that may help us beyond the confines of our class and give us a taste of what we may someday create.

\*\*\* Our class time will be comprised of demonstrations, individual instruction, work-time, and class discussion. Students do not need any prior art experience. The class will start simple dealing with foundational principles. Course material will gradually build in complexity, ending with emphasis on working from observation, creating dynamic compositions, and color mixing. Students will practice *thinking* like an artist. They will engage in the whole creative process from generating ideas, making intentional decisions with each aspect of their work, and reflecting on what they have made.

Students will be encouraged to practice exercises taught in class and may need to work out- side of class to complete projects.

Along with hands-on studio work, students will participate in regular class critiques, creating a forum for the group to constructively collaborate and discuss creative outcomes.

Students can also expect ongoing dialogues and study of classical illustrations.

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## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

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### **Attitude:**

Students are to come to class prepared with and attitude of:

- Humility
- Respect
- Vulnerability
- Patience
- Attentiveness
- Eagerness to grow

### **Growth Mindset:**

Learning a new skill is challenging and we will never start out knowing exactly how to make things look the way we want them. If you've never drawn before, you will not start out with a masterpiece. This is okay! Failure is good and part of our learning process. Grow patience with yourself and have the perseverance to continue through the discomfort and you may see success come. Success may look like progress and not perfection. "The perfect is the enemy of the good." Work towards maintaining a good attitude and engage in the process. "Become who you are becoming."

**In the Classroom:**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time with their needed materials prepped and ready to use. Students are expected to listen attentively and participate actively in class discussions and exercises. Each individual is responsible for staying up to date with classwork/assignments and for taking the initiative to reach out when in need of help.

Unless due to emergency or illness, students are expected to communicate absences with me at least a full day prior to the class in question. Unexcused absences and tardiness will affect the student's class participation grade.

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**STUDENT EVALUATION: GRADING**

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I will be providing feedback/critique constantly through zoom as well as in writing. In addition to this, I will assign the following grades to the student's level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will be the *magna cum laude* students. Students who do adequate but not praiseworthy work be designated *satis*. *Non satis* means lacking sufficiency or adequacy.

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**STUDENT EVALUATION: MASTERY PORTRAIT**

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\*\*\*Syllabi will be provided at the beginning of projects so that the student will know what is expected for excellent grades.

At the completion of this course *cum laude* students will be able to...

- Operate successfully in a studio setting and care for their materials
- Complete all of the assigned projects and exercises
- Come to class ready to learn and engage in the process of artmaking.
- Will be active in class discussions and will be able to follow directions well.
- Will be curious and eager to learn.
- Articulate different types of compositions and set up compositions of their own
- Critique their own and other's art in an informed manner

- Create original characters and place them into stories
- Develop narratives for their characters
- Create original paintings and drawings

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## **STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS**

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Students will be evaluated in the following categories:

- 1.) Sketchbooks (10%)
  - Each student is expected to maintain a sketchbook for the year to develop ideas and practice.
- 2) Studio participation and in class Exercises (30%)
  - Showing up and working
  - Art making, critique, thinking, reading, discussing.
- 3) Homework (10%)
  - Reading, writing, reflection, out of class exercises
  - Sometimes we will have homework, though it will not be the same as your homework in other classes. This mainly means that you need to get still life objects, photo references, finishing a reflection from class, etc.
- 4) Projects (50%)
  - Major projects will be completed during the semester. Timelines will be given when projects are given.

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## **STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

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Students will spend most of the class creating original pieces of art. Claiming someone else's work as your own is a serious and punishable offense. A plagiarized assignment will result in a failing grade.

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## **THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:**

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We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and

other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then submitting those files of their work to the designated Schoology assignment folder.

### **ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:**

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**Sara Silkwood** holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration from Syracuse University. Sara has several years experience teaching in a variety of areas including college level, church-run camps, Classical schools and privately. She also serves as the fine arts teacher at Valor Preparatory Academy. Currently, Sara works out of her home studio in Waco, Texas where she lives with her great dane-lab mix, Oberon. She spends her free-time backpacking, reading and illustrating her own stories.