



SCHOLÉ ACADEMY  
CLASSICAL ACADEMIC PRESS

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

Fall Semester  
Academic Year 2023/24

### **ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:**

**Rising 6th - 12th graders:** *No previous drawing experience is required for this course, this is an introductory level Drawing course which is meant to help develop and heighten the basic drawing skills, setting a foundation for other artistic courses. A sense of wonder, creative courage, and perseverance are beneficial postures for flourishing in this course*

**Class Start Date:** Tuesday, September 5th

**Class End Date:** Thursday, January 18th

**Class Orientation:** Week of August 28th

**Class Times:** Tuesday & Thursday; 5:0pm-6:15pm (EST)

**Instructor:** Sara Silkwood

**E-mail:** ssilkwood.scholeacademy@gmail.com

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

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### **CLASS SESSIONS DATES:**

**Classes will take place on Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:00am — 12:15pm (EST) 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. Story telling 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:

*Teaching art online is a unique learning experience to navigate. If at all possible, buy the version of supply linked below. I can help students navigate obstacles more effectively when we are all using the same materials. If you have any questions regarding supplies, please feel free to email me.*

- Any kind of sketchbook (minimum size 8"x10"): We will use these for exercises and notes. If you already have one that you use, that will do!
- Document camera (such as Ipevo), or equivalent\*
- Pencils for drawing
- Kneaded eraser
- At least 2 Micron pens, 005 ([link](#)) & 05 ([link](#))
- Bristol board drawing paper pad ([link](#))
- Ruler
- Blue painter's tape
- Set of watercolor paint ([link](#)) and palette\*\* ([link](#))
- Short handled watercolor brushes
  - Size 2 round ([link](#))
  - Size 6 round ([link](#))
  - 1/2" or 1" flat ([link](#))
  - OR a set like this ([link](#))
- Water cup
- Watercolor paper pad for studies and final projects ([link](#))
- Rags or paper towels

## OPTIONAL COURSE MATERIALS:

- Set of colored pencils
- Drawing board for stretching watercolor paper
- Apron to keep clothing clean
- Small spray bottle
- Masking fluid
- White gouache

\*EpocCam ([link](#)) is an app for the iPhone that turns your phone into a document camera. Ipevo has an app for Android phone ([link](#)), but I have not used it. Paired with a tension arm like this ([link](#)), and you have a very affordable alternative to a dedicated document camera. It will automatically link to Zoom.

\*\*If you already have a full set of watercolors, you may use those. It would be ideal if the colors are similar to the colors in the link.

## 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 outside 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: EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS

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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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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

## STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS

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Students will be evaluated in the following categories:

1. Class Participation: 30%
2. Homework and Exercises: 20%
3. Projects: 50%

## STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

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Students will spend the majority 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.

## 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 attaching those files as .pdfs to an email. They will submit their work to the Canvas assignment page (access granted after enrollment is secured).

## 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.