



mandy foot author | illustrator



Mandy's obsession with drawing animals and giving them an abundance of personality began when she was around 2, with chalk, on her grandparents pavement. Only then they didn't look like animals or anything much for that matter. Now as a best selling children's book illustrator of over 20 books, her canvas has evolved from the pavement and her studio is shared with her joined-at-the-hip Border Collies, Arty and Rory. Arty makes a guest appearance in *Hush Say the Stars* written by Margaret Spurling, published by Little Book Press and given out free to over 21,000 preschoolers in South Australia in the Raising Literacy Book Packs (she often draws her own animals into her books). This book was shortlisted in the Speech Pathology Awards 2019.

In 2019 Mandy's first children's book as both author and illustrator, *Joey and Riley* was published by Hachette Australia. Following the success of this, Hachette requested Mandy write a companion story, *Lucy and Copper*, which is due for release July 2021.

Her career to date has also included such highlights as a lengthy relationship with the Adelaide Zoo Education Service, drawing enough animals to fill an encyclopedia; *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* becoming the number 1 best selling children's book for Hachette Australia in 2013 (number 4 within Australia); being part of *Phil Cummings - Stories Behind The Books* exhibition with the State Library, with artwork on display from her recent book *The Hip Hop Barn* written by Phil Cummings, published by Little Book Press; plus a very special artwork collaboration with Aboriginal Artist, Susie Betts, for the upcoming children's book, *Warna Manda Baby*, being published in 2021 by Little Book Press.

Mandy is thrilled to now share her love of literacy, creativity and drawing with thousands of school students each year via energetic workshops and presentations, particularly throughout Book Week.

Mandy is proud to be an Ambassador for Raising Literacy Australia and a Role Model for Books in Homes. Her moto is 'everyone can draw; it's just the style that varies.'

Author | Illustrator Session | Overview | Mandy Foot

A brief overview of the sessions/workshops offered.

The format of the session can be tailored to the schools individual requirements.

- 180mins contact time per day. Broken down to 4 x 45 minute sessions or 3 x 1hour sessions.
- Maximum of 50 students per session.

The Process - I select a book to focus on (generally the most recent) and explain the process I work through to create a picture book from an illustrator's perspective; showing one of my sketchbooks and some of the initial drawings I present to the publisher. I touch on how I come up with my ideas, showing some of my research photos. For younger students ie. ELC, Reception I may choose a more fun, interactive book such as 'Bums and Tums' or 'The Hip Hop Barn'. I discuss the relationship between the author, illustrator and publisher and for the slightly older students, highlighting the importance of storytelling through images and how to find that balance between the words and images as author/illustrator.

Read - I'll then read the story during which they will be able to recognise some of those early drawings turned into colour images within the book. Plus I'll show students some of the original paintings.

Activity - We'll draw and create a character related to the book. I briefly go into expressions and how to achieve these. We'll brainstorm how to change the look of this character - what if we wanted to turn he into a she? Students can draw along with me as I show a step by step process. For the younger students, I'll draw for them. I provide a simple A4 colouring sheet as a PDF (feel free to print as many copies as you like) which they can colour/decorate afterwards. After the session they could then write their own story based on their character. The most important thing to me is to build the students confidence - every drawing will be unique.

Requirements - Technology to show an overhead presentation including data projection screen and computer/laptop. I will bring a USB with a multipage PDF which can be opened in Adobe Acrobat. In this I include every page of the story so when I read every child can see the images clearly in large format. I'll also require a whiteboard or something similar, to tape a sheet of paper to which will be roughly A2 size (594mm x 420mm) for drawing (the school is able to keep these drawings after). Students drawing with me will need A4 paper with clipboards or similar to lean on and a pencil.



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