

Pi Art Course Title: Create and Publish Your First Book!

Course Description

This long-term project fosters creativity, storytelling skills, and a sense of accomplishment as students see their books come to life.

In this creative and hands-on course, students will embark on an exciting journey to create and publish their picture books. They will explore storytelling, character development, and illustration techniques. Guided by professional writers and artists, students will brainstorm story ideas, develop book dummies, and illustrate their books page by page.

By the end of the course, each student will have created a fully illustrated book ready for publication. The final step will be preparing their books for printing, including formatting, scanning artwork, and making design choices for cover art and fonts.

Instructors co-teaching with Wen

Dillian McGahey

Dillian is an outstanding member of the education department at the Peabody Essex Museum, responsible for planning and organizing a variety of enriching art education activities. She graduated from Montserrat College of Art with a dual degree in Printmaking and Art History, combining both artistic creation and academic depth. As a picture book artist, Dillian's work is filled with whimsy, and she excels in telling heartwarming and creative stories through small animal characters. She has a pure, childlike heart and loves to inspire children's imaginations through art, helping them find joy and expression in the world of creativity.

Dr. Eileen Wiznitzer, PSY

Dr. Eileen Wiznitzer holds a PhD in Modern English Poetry from Brandeis University and is a licensed clinical psychologist with extensive experience. She currently serves as the school psychologist at Belmont High School and is highly familiar with adolescents and the American education system. Her two sons graduated with honors from Lexington High School and Harvard University, continuing their study in Harvard Medical School.

Day	Agenda	Goals
1 11/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Picture Book Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are your favorite books, and why? ○ Introduce different examples ○ Discuss the average length of a PB ○ Brainstorm together/individually what their books should be about 	<p>By the second class, each student will have a rough idea of what they want to make.</p> <p>Create a scrabbbook on google slides</p>
2 11/10	<p>Learn and practice :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One closeup shot of a character 2. One zoom-out shot of a character 3. At least 3 spreads should have some sort of background 4. Each book should have a cover and a back cover 5. The story should have a Beginning/Middle/End 	<p>Requirements for each book:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. One closeup shot of a character 7. One zoom-out shot of a character 8. At least 3 spreads should have some sort of background 9. Each book should have a cover and a back cover 10. The story should have a Beginning/Middle/End
3 11/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start class by sharing the idea each student has settled on • Or brainstorm and discuss the rough idea and start to work on a document where all their text is • Work individually on a Character Sheet 	<p>Writing session:Eileen</p>
4 11/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start class by sharing the idea each student has settled on • Work individually on a Character Sheet • ~20 minutes, go over how to make a book dummy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ start on the book dummy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A book dummy is like a storyboard or even a comic. It is to help visualize the final project and help with the layout of your pages ○ 8-12 pages, not including the front/back cover 	<p>By class 3 each student should have a rough book dummy.</p>

5 12/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer-review their story to go over grammar, spelling, etc. • Work individually on a Character Sheet • 1-1 review session 	Writing session: Eileen A workable dummy
6 12/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone should work on a document where all their text is. All students will be given someone to peer-review their story to go over grammar, spelling, etc. ~15 minutes of class time to put together. • Discuss materials people would want to work with and book dimensions. • Begin illustrating the pages! 	Students should now work on the final books Pages 1-4
7 1/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come together at the beginning of class to go over progress. Are there any difficulties someone is having? Here, we can tackle any problems early in the production of the book. ~15 minutes • Work on book interior 	Pages 4-6
8 1/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get text back, and go over feedback 1-1 • Continue work on book interior. 	Eileen will be part of the class Pages 6-8
9 1/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on book interior 	Pages 8-10
10 1/26	Work on book interior	Pages 10-12
11 2/2	Work on the book interior and the book cover.	At this point, everyone should be nearing the end.
12 2/9	<p>Any last-minute artwork, such as touch-ups! Students should be spending time scanning in their artwork to send to me for production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss resolution and DPI • Discuss naming files (page 1, page 2, etc...). <p>Very last day before sending the files out to the printers!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss text placement! • What kind of fonts should you use? • Where is the best place to put text? • Handwritten vs typed 	This section of the class will need more hands-on help. By this point, most of the book
13 2/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student will get the chance to read their book to the class, to show off their work. • Review the process and get feedback 	

	from students	
13 2/16	Each student will get the chance to read their book to the class to show off their work. Review the process and get feedback from students	

Note: Students are asked to keep sketchbooks, and at the beginning of every class, they may share their sketchbooks and talk about what interests them.