



# M. P. ROBERTSON

## School Visits

I've been very privileged to spend the last twenty-five years working as an author/illustrator. I've written and illustrated countless titles that have been published all over the world. My best-selling book *The Egg* has been published in 12 countries.

I love to visit schools to share my passion for drawing and storytelling. From a personal point of view it's wonderful to see the reaction my stories receive. My books are humorous by nature and I will stoop to any level to get a laugh ... even wiggling my ears ... Shameful! My stories are not of the cuddly kitten variety so appeal equally to boys and girls.

### The Talk

My visit usually starts with a talk to the whole school or year group. I discuss where I find my inspiration for my stories and show how an idea develops from a crude scribble on an envelope to a fully-fledged picture book. I even find the time to tell a few stories.

### The Workshops

#### How To Draw A Dragon

Many of my books feature dragons; they are magnificent creatures to draw. I've been drawing them for over a quarter of a century and I still relish every scale.

I start with a step-by-step demonstration on a visualizer, breaking the drawing down into simple stages. This builds confidence in the children and encourages them to explore new ways to approach drawing.



#### Weird And Wonderful Creatures

Strange creatures have always fascinated me, whether real or imagined. Throughout human existence we have created ghouls, monsters and bogie-men ... something to be afraid of when the lights go out.

I invent my own creature with the help of a dice and some creative input from the children. Then it's time for the children to pick up their pencils ... I'm not interested in exquisite draughtsmanship. It's all about exploring their own limitless imaginations.



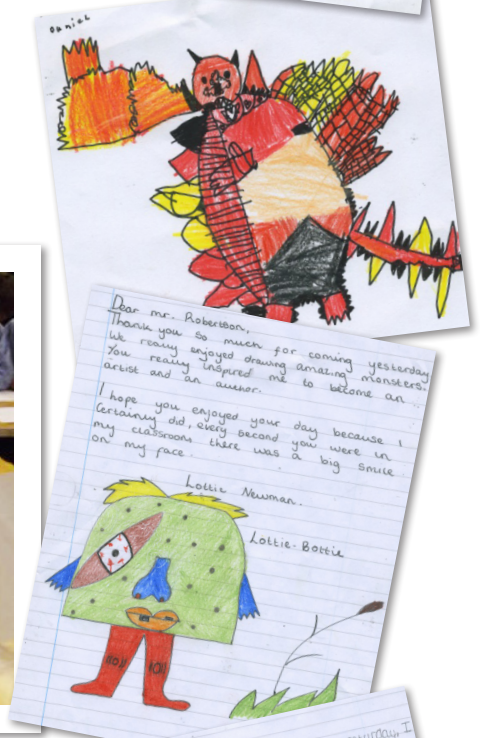
## Before I Arrive

I've visited enough schools to know that teachers are very busy people. But I do find that it's worth taking a bit of time to read the children a story or two before I arrive. Many schools that I visit have already used my books as starting points for projects. This builds the excitement in the children and gives the day a little more electricity.

If you'd like to base a lesson around my books, I have a lesson plan from TES that I can provide, as well as a Powerpoint of *The Egg* and *The Dragon Snatcher*. Please contact me at: [mark@mprobertson.com](mailto:mark@mprobertson.com)

## What I Need On The Day

For the talk I require either a digital projector all set up and ready to roll, or an interactive whiteboard. For the workshop the children will need either sketchbooks or plenty of A4 paper, pencils, black fine point pens and coloured pencils. I also need a flipchart with unruled paper for the Weird and Wonderful Creature workshop.



## After I Leave

### Top Trumps

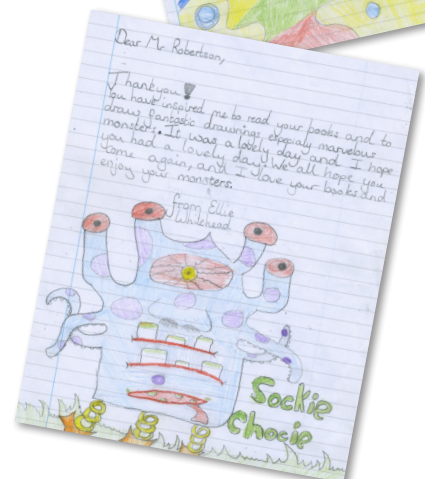
Unfortunately I am only with the children for a short time but I've written a lesson plan for teachers to continue after I leave. I've designed a template for a Top Trump card, leaving space for the children's drawings. The drawings can be dropped into the template along with details of their creature or dragon's attributes. They can then have fun playing a game of Top Trumps with the cards they have all created.

## How Much?

I charge £300 for a day's visit plus travel expenses and accommodation if required. I live in Bradford on Avon, near Bath, but have friends and relatives dotted around the country. I'm willing to consider any location, even abroad.

## Book Discount

At the end of the day I give the children the chance to buy a signed copy of a book as a memento of my visit. To help the school recoup some of the cost of my visit I offer a book discount. So, for every book that I sell I'll deduct £1 from my overall fee.





# Why Book Me?



'The Sandcastle' is a story to read the class at the end of the day and send them home with a head full of dreams and a memory of magical pictures.

Literacy and Learning

I just wanted to thank you for your excellent session, both children and staff were very positive about the natural way you connected with the children.

The Headmaster, Forches Cross Primary School, Barnstable

Mark Robertson gave a brilliant workshop at Frome Library. I can wholeheartedly recommend Mark. He was great at engaging with the children and they produced some beautiful work with his assistance.

Wendy Miller-Williams, Librarian Frome Library

Dear Mr. Robertson, Thank you for teaching and drawing us marvelous monsters pictures. Me and my friends enjoyed your lesson. I have read my books what I bought. I read my book to my friend my brother. when you left are class, we draw are best mosters and coloured in. I really enjoyed your visit and your pictures and book ar reddy brilliant.

Josh Timpson, aged 7, Cam Woodfield Primary school  
(Spelling and grammatical errors included)

The whole school was totally spellbound, tremendously inspired and fully educated, a seriously worthwhile event.

Dr. Anne Bullen, OBE. Headmistress of the year 2012

Thank you so much for your visit, they were buzzing with it for days and wrote some very imaginative stories afterwards.

Debbie Frindall, Chirton Primary School, Devises

Dear Mr. Robertson, Thank you so much for coming yesterday. We really enjoyed drawing amazing Monsters. You really inspired me to become an artist and author. I hope you enjoyed your day because I certainly did, every second you were in my classroom there was a big smile on my face.

Lottie Newman, aged 8,  
Cam Woodfield  
Junior School

