



M. P. ROBERTSON

What I Offer

The Talk

I start the day with a talk to the whole school, discussing where I find inspiration for my stories and showing how an idea can develop from a crude scribble on an envelope to a fully fledged picture book. I'm always looking for new ways of making the talk more engaging, to keep it fresh for both me and the audience, and I try to involve the children at every opportunity.

The Workshops

I can comfortably fit a talk and four workshops into a school day. If you'd like every child to experience a workshop I can run the *How To Draw A Dragon* workshop with up to 90 children, so this potentially means you can run the workshop to the whole school if you are double entry. Larger schools might want to consider booking me for two days (I offer a £50 discount for a double booking), or limit the workshops to key stage 1 or a year group.

How To Draw A Dragon!

Many of my books feature dragons, from *The Egg* series to my latest book *Dare to Care for a Pet Dragon*. I've been drawing dragons for over a quarter of a century and I still relish every scale.



I begin with a step-by-step demonstration on a visualiser and, by breaking down the drawing into simple stages, I make it easy for the children to follow along. This builds their confidence and dexterity. I've run this workshop in many schools and had amazing results from children as young as 5. After one of my workshops you won't ever hear the phrase 'I can't draw' ... even from the teachers.





Weird And Wonderful Creatures!

Weird creatures have always fascinated me, whether real or imaginary. Throughout human existence we've created ghouls, monsters and bogie-men, something to be scared of when the lights go out.

I start the workshop by creating a creature made up from a jumble sale of parts suggested by the children. Then we have a brainstorming session to come up with a name for the creature. At the end of the session I try to find time to show the children some original artworks and sketchbooks.

After I leave the class, the children could design their own strange creature. I've also developed a Top Trumps lesson plan and template, which is downloadable from my website, so you can exploit the topic further by creating a class Top Trumps pack of strange creatures. This workshop can easily be linked to the topic of Greek mythological creatures.

How Much?

£325 plus travel and accommodation.

Travel

I'm based near Bath and will consider travelling any distance to visit a school, but please bear in mind that travel and accommodation expenses are additional to my fee.

Book Discount

At the end of the day I give the children a chance to buy a signed copy of a book as a memento of my visit. To help the school recoup some of the costs, I offer the school a discount of £1 for every book sold.

Teacher Resources

Some of my books are widely used as key texts within schools. I have available *A Very Dragony teaching sequence* and Powerpoints of stories. If you would like to run a project based on one of my books please email me at mp.robertson@icloud.com. There is also a downloadable Top Trumps lesson plan and template available on my website from the visits page.

