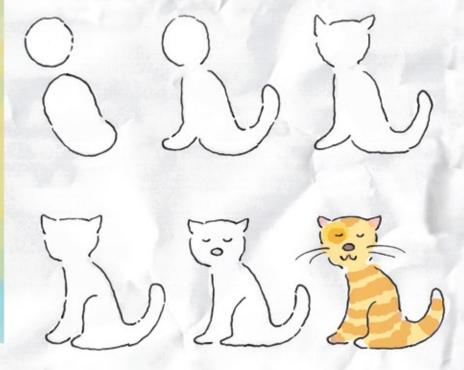


Hi kids, I'm an illustrator and I love animals. That's why I work with the people at Bark! magazine. I drew this page and, if you've seen Kat and Fin, that's my work too. I started drawing when I was your age and enjoyed it so much I decided to make it my job. By now I think I have probably drawn everything in the world. You might even have one of my books. I've illustrated over 50 of them!

HOW TO DRAW A CAT

It's all about the shapes. Start with a circle for the head and a bean shape for the body. Now, step by step, add a tail and ears and eyes. Have fun colouring your cat in when you're finished.



YOU CAN ENTER OUR CONTEST JUST BY MAILING (OR EMAILING)
YOUR DRAWING IN. THE WINNER WILL GET AN AUTOGRAPHED
COPY OF ONE OF MY BOOKS... HAVE FUN!

Send to CAT CONTEST:

How I Learned to Draw a Cat by Cynthia Nugent

HI! I'M A CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATOR AND WHEN I DID MY FIRST BOOK, Mister Got to Go, I HAD TO LEARN HOW TO DRAW A CAT. HERE'S HOW I DID IT. FIRST I DREW SKETCHES OF A REAL CAT WITH A PEN, GOING AS FAST AS I COULD, NOT WORRYING ABOUT MISTAKES. SKETCHES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE MESSY. SKETCHING IS THE BEST WAY TO STUDY HOW A CAT LOOKS AND MOVES. HERE ARE SOME OF THE MANY SKETCHES I DID.

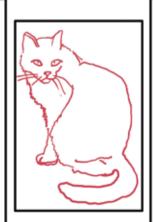




AFTER DOING FAST, ACTION SKETCHES, I DID REALLY SLOW **OUTLINES CALLED** CONTOUR DRAWINGS. LOOKING AT A PHOTO OR A SLEEPING CAT, DRAW ON YOUR PAPER AS IF YOU ARE DRAWING AN OUTLINE AROUND THE CAT. KEEP YOUR PENCIL ON THE PAPER AND TRY TO DO IT ALL IN ONE CONTINUOUS LINE.

THE INK OF SOME PENS,

PAINTBRUSH AND CLEAR WATER TO BLUR THE LINES.



DRAWING BOTH FAST, ACTION SKETCHES AND SLOW CONTOUR DRAWINGS IS THE BEST WAY TO DEVELOP YOUR HAND-EYE COORDINATION. DON'T WORRY ABOUT MISTAKES - JUST DRAW! PRETTY SOON YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DRAW CATS AND EVERYTHING ELSE. HAPPY DRAWING! OVE, CYNTHIA



Cynthia Nugent is an author/illustrator. She lives in Vancouver with her dog, Emma. For more information about her, visit cynthianugent.com.

CONTEST TIME! Practice Cynthia's techniques, then send us your best cat drawings. You may even want to turn your collection of drawings into a comic strip! Everyone who sends us their artwork will be entered in a draw to win one of five autographed copies of Cynthia Nugent's book, Mister Got To Go! (Special thanks to Raincoast Books.) Send your entry, including your full name, age and address, to BC SPCA Kids Club, 1245 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1. Contest closes November 15, 2008.