

A Mouse Called Julian by Joe Todd-Stanton

Julian is a mouse who is perfectly happy avoiding other animals. They seem to just get in the way, and sometimes even try to eat him! But one day, Julian has an unexpected dinner guest... When the fox tries to sneak into Julian's burrow for a tasty bite of mouse, it finds itself stuck headfirst in Julian's front door!

At first alarmed and wary, they soon find themselves having a lovely dinner together, and it's not long before each realises that they have found a lifelong friend.

The Story of Julian web site

<https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=9&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjwxO7C0OroAhXLNcAKHeKFak8QFjAlegQIAhAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fflyingeyeblooks.com%2Fjoe-todd-stanton-reading-a-mouse-called-julian%2F&usg=AOvVaw2ph7e56ZDTUt4LPtSOJZs9>

At Home



Underground



Session 1: Responding to illustration

Stick the pictures on Page 1 into your book. Look at the picture of the underground world. What do you notice immediately? Look at the different colours that are used in the picture. What is this showing us? Write your responses in your journal.

♣ Compare the animals below the ground with those above the ground; what can you notice about the way they look or behave? What might the animals below the ground think or feel about the animals above the ground? Why?

♣ Look carefully at the characters – name these animals.

Collect and provide some photographs of real-life examples of these creatures to display in your book alongside the illustrations.

♣ Explore the character you can see in the den; How do you think this character is feeling? Why do you think he might feel this way? What is different about its home compared to all the other homes you can see below the ground? You may note that the other animals' burrows connect to at least one other animal's burrow, as well as to the world above ground, whilst the mouse's tunnel only connects to the outside in three different paths.

Some people prefer time by themselves, some like a small circle of friends. In your journals note down what you prefer and why.

Session 2: Deepening understanding of characters through close reading of illustrations.

Look at the 'home' picture. The title of the book is '**A Mouse Called Julian**'. Look at the illustration of the mouse on this page. What more do we find out about the mouse from this page? Where do you think he is? What is he doing? How does he look? What more can we tell about Julian from this page?

- ♣ Notice the plants on the shelf by the window, the pencils on the ground, the fact he only has one chair at the table, and use these to infer things about his character.
- ♣ Now focus in on the fact that he lives on his own. Why do you think this might be 'the way he likes it'? Is wanting to be alone a bad thing? What might he like about living on his own? Write down your views on this.
- ♣ Share your own experiences of where you live and who you live with. Draw your own bedroom, flat or house, write about, or draw items that are special to you and hobbies and interests that you have.
- ♣ Look at the colours used in the illustration. *How do these make us feel about his home?* You may connect browns, oranges and yellows with warmth and the brighter colours used for the plants and flowers with brightness and cheerfulness.
- ♣ Write a short piece of writing about yourself, giving an insight into your life, hobbies and character. Use a combination of words and images to communicate their ideas.

You might look at how this is done in books such as *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* by Liz Pichon (Scholastic)

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Session 3: Illustrating Characters: Session 3: Illustrating Characters:

How-to bring characters to life through illustration.

In this session, *you* will be seeing the author on a video and learning how to draw the character of Julian. Watch the video 'Illustrating a character from *A Mouse Called Julian*' on the Power of Pictures website:

<https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=8&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjohpaVoujoAhXMXhUIHdS2CqIQFjAHegQIAxAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fclpe.org.uk%2Ffiles%2Fjoe-todd-stanton-illustration&usg=AOvVaw3IQnAWJ4SdVKuXazsWsCpc>

♣ Watch the video for a second time and try to draw the character of Julian. Start in the same way Joe does, by using a triangle and a circle to draw the body and head. Look at the shapes, and patterns as you work and what you are focusing on to make this character live. *What does Joe mean when he describes him as anxious and careful and how does he show this in his drawing? Think about the techniques Joe introduces, like shading.* Think about the props he adds to the picture. *What is the big haul of blueberries for?* Then think about the scenery and what Joe says about the size of things in the scenery, like the pebbles and grass, in relation to Julian.

Be free in *your* choices of scenery items that fit the world of the story. *You* may choose to include a flower or a tree trunk, for example, but will need to think about how large these are in scale compared to a tiny mouse.

♣ Draw the artwork in your journal. Choose an outfit for them to wear from images below?

A MOUSE CALLED JULIAN

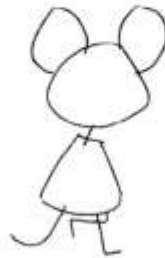
Draw your own Julian!



1. Draw the basic shape of the head.



2. Add a cone-shaped body, a neck and a tail.



3. Give Julian some ears and some stick legs.



4. Draw circles for eyes and basic shapes for his paws and feet.



5. Now add in his whiskers, hair and other details.



6. Add in finer details, especially rubbing out the basic shapes.



7. Now you should have a pretty drawing of Julian!



8. Put a basic layer of black colour down.



9. Do some shading and add more colour – and you're done!



FLYING EYE BOOKS



