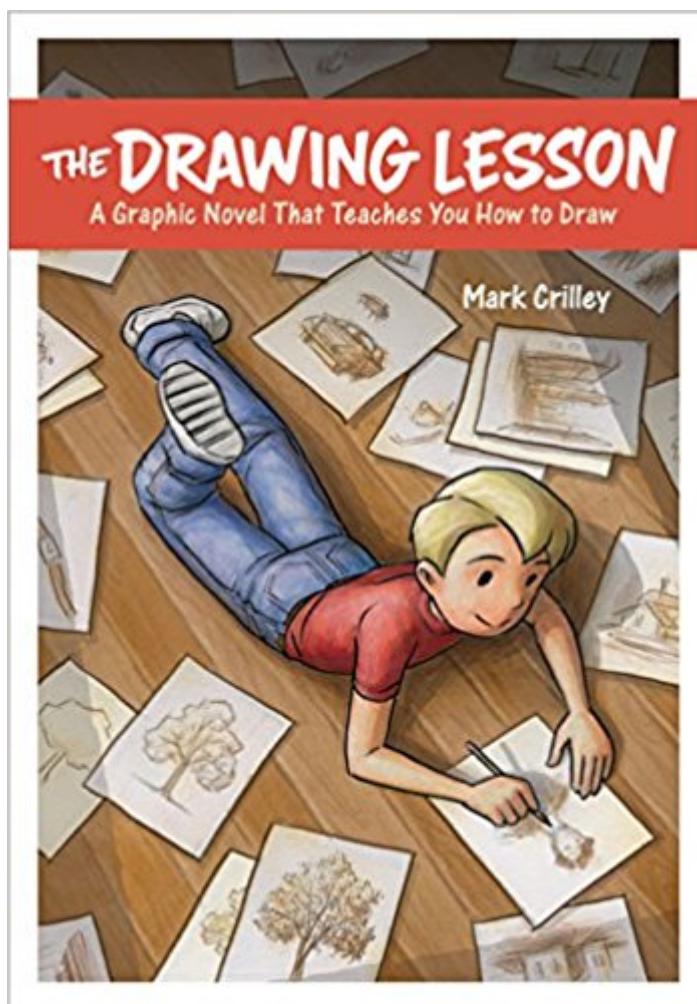


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# The Drawing Lesson: A Graphic Novel That Teaches You How To Draw



## Synopsis

Read This Comic and Start Drawing Today! Nominated for a 2017 Eisner Award For the first time ever, drawing instructor and graphic novelist Mark Crilley brings his easy-to-follow artistic instruction to aspiring artists in the form of a comic book, providing you with a one-of-a-kind how-to experience. In *The Drawing Lesson*, you'll meet David—a young boy who wants nothing more than to learn how to draw. Luckily for David, he's just met Becky—his helpful drawing mentor. Page by page, Becky teaches David (and you!) about the essential fundamentals that artists need in order to master drawing, all in a unique visual format. In panel after panel, Crilley provides lessons on shading, negative space, creating compositions, and more, with accompanying exercises that you can try for yourself. Are you ready to start your drawing lesson today?

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Watson-Guptill (July 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385346336

ISBN-13: 978-0385346337

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 98 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #22,318 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Arts & Photography > Drawing > Cartooning #23 in Books > Arts & Photography > Study & Teaching #290 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4 Up—David is awed by an older student who can draw cars, and he wants to be able to do the same. When he asks Becky, an artist drawing in the park, for a quick lesson, the small request turns into an entire summer of progressive tutorials that readers are encouraged to emulate and practice. What could have been a series of instructions enhanced with dialogue and humor instead features a full story that's heartfelt and quite moving. The book contains illustrations rendered in shaded, sepia-tone pencil overlaid with crisp, computer-created dialogue balloons, and as Becky talks about framing and realism, negative space, and lighting, readers start to notice the

intriguing choices Crilley has made in his storytelling. The focus is on drawing, not graphic narrative, but as readers see and analyze the way Becky— and, by extension, Crilley—is encouraging them, the balance between cartooning and realism begins to leap out. The dynamic between David's impetuous enthusiasm and Becky's caustic reserve pays off in a way that might be surprising, considering Crilley's frequent use of caricature. This title supports rereading and careful examination of the author's impeccable technique and the implied storytelling lessons he doesn't make explicit. VERDICT An artful balance of character and technique, of observed human moments and carefully pitched instruction, that will appeal to students with artistic aspirations.—Benjamin Russell, Belmont High School, NH

2017 Eisner Award Nominee2017-2018 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award List"[H]eartfelt and quite moving...An artful balance of character and technique, of observed human moments and carefully pitched instruction, that will appeal to students with artistic aspirations. — Gr 4 + Up" —School Library Journal"Engaging...A pleasant diversion for a long summer afternoon, The Drawing Lesson is likely to result in lots of ambitious sketching among readers ages 7 to 14." —Wall Street Journal"The narrative is often funny and unexpectedly poignant, while the tutorials are impressively clear and easy for readers to implement...A great pick for juveniles and young teens looking to learn the craft of drawing." —Library Journal"Proportion, negative space, perspective, lighting, and other drawing basics are covered concisely and informatively, so a student could easily follow the clear drawings to benefit from Becky's lessons. Crilley develops his characters fully, making this a true novel and not simply a narrated drawing lesson. An original and accessible way to learn to draw. (Graphic nonfiction. 10-14)" —Kirkus Reviews"Offers thorough and practical lessons in drawing. The instruction is solid, covering proportion, shading, loose sketching, self-criticism, drawing shadows, and negative space." —Publishers Weekly"You'll laugh, you'll learn, and you might even discover a hidden talent. What's not to love?" —Girls' Life Magazine"A great book for young artists and their parents, sure to encourage artistry while building confidence and fundamental drawing skills." —Book Riot"Everyone has looked at a piece of art, whether it is a comic book or classical painting, and thought I wish I could do that." —Mark Crilley's latest drawing manual, —The Drawing Lesson: A Graphic Novel That Teaches You How to Draw,— turns that wish into an absolution." —GeekChicElite"The book doesn't just show you the right way to do things but also common, fixable mistakes. Then it shows you what to do in order to make things right." —Nerdophiles"This book tackles all the

topics they covered in my High School AP Art Class...An excellent book to give to a young person (tween to teen) if they're interested in learning about the technical aspects of art." •What'cha Reading" Illustration inspiration." •The Children's Book Review" The Drawing Lesson is a truly innovative way to learn art. I can't wait to get this book for every kid on my gift buying list. Whatever your age, The Drawing Lesson is an essential primer on how to draw what you see." •Gene Ha, artist for Alan Moore's Top 10, Fables, and Action Comics, creator of Mae, and four-time Eisner Award winner

I've never heard of Mark Crilley before, never read any of his books, and I have a feeling I'm not his usual target demographic (since he's well-known for his manga books and I'm not a manga fan), but wow, this was a wonderful book. Its purpose, according to the book's notes, is to allow you to experience what it's like to have a mentor--someone who will not only teach you how to draw, but interact with you, point out what you're doing wrong, and to encourage you (but not coddle you). This book delivers that, in an abbreviated form. The story is of a boy, David, who meets a woman in the park who is drawing. He begs her to teach him, and she does, for a few hours. But of course, the lesson doesn't end there! Each chapter shows how David and his mentor meet up, and each chapter shows her teaching him a new drawing principle. First, it's getting the outline of the drawing accurate. There's a chapter on shading. Then there's the one about using your pencil strokes to follow along the form. (I enjoyed that one. Finally, a beginner drawing book that doesn't rely on smearing the graphite! Eureka! Glory be!) Negative space is covered, composition--it's a really good book! I'd recommend it to anyone, of any age. I wouldn't assume that it would be the only drawing book that would ever be needed. It can't possibly cover everything. But it does offer a good start, plus it teaches some truths that beginner artists need to learn, but are things that are often beyond the scope of regular beginner drawing books. Things like wanting to draw for its own sake (not to compete with someone else), and to accept criticism and keep on moving forward. This is a wonderful book and beautifully presented. I think it would be a big hit with anyone, but particularly those under age 18, especially if they've just discovered drawing.

TLDR; highly recommend for kids or any beginner who is interested in drawing better. Entertaining story and art, and excellent instruction. I got this for my niece and nephew, the former of whom likes to draw, and the latter hopefully will develop the habit as he grows a little older. Being that I live thousands of miles from them, I cannot easily teach them what's I've learned about drawings, sit with them and practice, or encourage them to keep at it; so I decided this would be a fair substitute.

That said, what kind of uncle would I be if I didn't look though it first, to ensure that the quality and lessons were worth it. Well, worth it they are! This little book surprised me in several ways. First of all, the story and pictures are delightful, and could be enjoyed without the lessons. Actually the lessons almost feel secondary, they weave so well with the narrative that you'd almost forget that there was a lesson there at all, except that at the end of each chapter there is a prompt on what to practice. I was worried that the "story" would be just a cheap gimmick, and that it would otherwise be just another "how-to-draw" book, but the story really stands up on it's own. A synopsis can be ready elsewhere, so I won't get into what the story is about. Second: the lessons are good. Really really good, not pedantic, formulaic or "kids stuff", but lessons on real fundamentals, and things that aspiring artist will not necessarily pick up just from practicing. One of the big ones is that it encourages the types of practice which really will cause kids to improve, and yet remain versatile enough to tackle whichever style they chose to emulate, or to develop their own. The third thing which really impressed me is that it's very much NOT a how-to-draw X book and not the least bit stifling. It's doesn't demonstrate how to draw a specific thing, step-by-step, but teaches basic techniques for seeing and interpreting, for composition, shading, proportion, etc. such that kids will learn how to draw whatever they see, and whatever they want to draw, not just what a step-by-step how-to book taught them to draw. Now, many kids really do enjoy those how-to methods, and I'm not necessarily saying they should be avoided, but this is much more useful an approach than those are and of a more lasting benefit. Get this and how-to books, fine, but don't skip on getting this. The fourth thing, and perhaps a bit personal to me, is that I never had a chance to get any art instruction when I was young, and this is the book that I now wish I had had then. Any beginner with this book has a huge head start (I really can't overstate that), particularly if they aren't going to be getting any professional instruction. This book is one part excellent lessons, one part interesting art and story and one part mentor. There are many great books on drawing, or art in general, but this one could have been the only one that I needed from about the 3rd grade through at least my early teenage years. And here is a bonus fifth surprise, which only came to me well after finishing the book and thinking about it in retrospect: The simply-drawn panels are actually something that could get young kids inspired to do their own comics.. or just share their drawings and stories in general; Some kids may not necessarily need all that much inspiration to do so, but they could easily tell their own stories in pictures and words, hold them up against Mr. Crilley's and be satisfied that they drew well enough to communicate their story to their readers. I dealt with a ton of self-doubt when I was young, about whether or not my art was good enough to show to others. I wrote and drew and then stuffed the work away and mostly hid it from others. Seeing a real book, with simple and expressive

art in it, which did tell a story, which people read and liked and paid money for would have encouraged me thoroughly and would have put those doubts to rest forever. That's worth more than gold to an aspiring artist.

This is an excellent book to get anyone started in drawing from life. Whatever you want to do, whether it's drawing your own manga, being an animator, or designing cool cars, drawing things from direct observation is the most important way to develop your skills. Many young artists assume this is boring to do, since they're not immediately drawing the objects they might like the most, but it's actually a huge amount of fun when you get into it, and this book will show you why. Personally, for me drawing from life is as fun and rewarding as playing my favorite video games. If you like this book, I'd also recommend Bert Dodson's two books, *Keys to Drawing*, and *Keys to Drawing with Imagination*.

This is probably the first time a *How To Draw* book has brought a tear to my eye. It tells a story, and a touching one at that. It's essentially a series of dialogues between a young student and his reluctant-at-first teacher, and by giving personalities to the two roles it really helps drive home the various points. Strongly recommended.

This book was really good-- maybe Crilley's best work so far! The drawing style is one that i have not seen before, but it fits really well with the story and plot. When i saw the style that the book was drawn in on Mark Crilley's youtube channel, i thought "this will probably teach me how to draw cartoons or something", but it teaches you how to draw what you see, and it has little annotations at the end of each chapter with drawing exercises, so you can improve with David, the main character. The story is really good, too, and the epilogue is the best! Overall, this is a great book, that has a really great story and nice drawing pointers, and i would recommend it to anyone.

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