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Cressida Cowell [00:00:13] Hello there, I'm Cressida Cowell, author and illustrator of How to Train Your Dragon, Wizards of Once and Which Way to Anywhere, my new book series. And I'm so glad you've joined me for the Reading is Magic Festival. Sometimes things that you do or say have a way of turning into something bigger than you imagined and carrying on longer than you thought they would like the Reading is Magic Festival, which started in 2020 when I was the Waterstones Children's Laureate. It was inspired by my belief that reading is magic, and magic is for everyone. All the events during the festival explore the themes of the charter I wrote when I was a laureate and celebrate all the things you have the right to: creativity, having a planet to read on, seeing yourselves in a book, reading for the joy of it, and getting brilliant advice about books and about reading from people whose job it is to do that. I hope you enjoy this event.

Laura Layfield [00:01:32] Hello, it's Laura Layfield here. I'm a TV presenter. I'm currently wearing a black top. I've got a pink bubble in my hair today and I'm in front of my brilliant Reading is Magic Festival bunting for day four. And we're going to start today with some manga drawing. It's all thanks to Saturday AM comics, thanks to the wonders of modern technology. We are now able to link up with artists across the globe to show us how it's done. So let's get cracking.

Jey Odin [00:02:07] Hello, my name is Jey Odin. I am currently wearing a yellow shirt. I have a black sweater on. I am wearing black and yellow framed glasses. I have very curly hair that goes past my ears. I am inside of my home office with fan art that I drew behind me of series that are being published inside of Saturday AM. And I am currently holding Volume one of my series that is being published on Saturday AM called Hammer. I'm here today to teach you about drawing thumbnails. So first off, let me explain what a thumbnail is. A thumbnail is a very tiny sketch of what you want your comic book page to look like. It allows you... When you draw thumbnails, it allows you to layout an entire comic book page very quickly. And if you have any like mistakes or if you want to change anything, you can do so because it's not only very small, but it's also very sketchy. So you don't really waste a lot of time, you know, dedicating too much to making it look super presentable. So let me give you an example of how to do a thumbnail. If you if you have a pen and paper, then pull them out right now and let's get to it. Step one is to either write out a script or plan out each page, like how I just did. There's something that we do inside of Saturday AM where each sentence corresponds to one particular page. So page one, page two, and page three. This allows me to draw the thumbnails very easily. However, a lot of people like doing the scripts. You know, there's a lot of benefits and cons to doing both, but one of the benefits for doing a script is the entire page is described to you, every panel, every action within that panel, you know, the background, everything is described. So, you know, you don't have to think too much about what you need to draw. You just kind of do what it tells you. Whereas if you have a sentence, it gives you a lot of freedom. And as long as you're accurately translating the sentence into a comic book page, it is you know, it's very fun. However, you know, one of the cons for, you know, having a script is, you know, everything is dictated and, you know, there's not that much freedom. If you want to add another panel, you can't necessarily do that, especially if somebody else is writing it for you. And then when it comes to, you know, doing the sentences, sometimes you have too much freedom. And, you know, if you can't accurately describe what's in that sentence, then, you know, it becomes very difficult to actually lay out the page. These are some things to keep in mind whenever you decide to plan out what you want to have your comic be about. But again, I'm going to go with the sentence format for this particular demonstration. Now, step two is when you are going to draw out the thumbnail pages.

Now, I usually draw a square and then I draw a line in the middle. The line represents the gutter and that also allows you to know what you know the pages are going to be. So all of the odd numbers are always going to be on the right and all the even numbers are always going to be on the left. Keep that in mind, because whenever your book gets printed out, you know you're going to want to know what that is. So that way when you draw double page spreads, you know, they're not they're not, you know, off or anything. It looks cool. So, you know, keep that in mind. Step three is by using the sentences or a script, then, you know, you're basically going to be constructing your thumbnails. You know, I kind of already laid them out in advance that way. I know kind of what to draw and I'm just going to, you know, draw a little small sketch. Again, this is what you do for thumbnails. You know, they don't necessarily need to be detailed or anything at all. You know, you're kind of just, you know, having small marks to signify what you want to draw, you know, give you a little, you know, reminder. So that way whenever you go to the actual page and, you know, you're finally drawing it to, you know, present it to the world, you know, exactly what you wants to actually have on every page. So I'm going to skip ahead and, you know, show you the end result real quick. Now, as you can see, everything is super sketchy. You know, nothing is detailed at all. And if I want to change anything, it's very easy to just erase it and, you know, draw it again. I don't have to, you know, they waste too much time. And step four is when you're going to take basically that thumbnail page and try to construct it into something that looks more presentable. So here's an example of Chapter 33 from Hammer in ISSUE 150. Now, don't put your pencils away because I have one more tutorial that I want to show you guys, and it's how to draw my main character, Stud. So let's do this. All right. So the first step is to draw a circle. Now, you don't necessarily need this to be perfect. It's very sketchy on purpose just because you're just trying to lay out what the head shaping is going to be. After that from maybe the side or right around here on that circle you're going to draw half of a heart shape so you know how heart shaped does this. You to draw this part and that's going to be the cheek and you're going to kind of have a point right there and you're going to draw up. This one line is going to connect towards the other side of the circle, and that's where you're going to draw a backwards C, you know, instead of drawing a C like that, you can draw it backward C. And then you're going to draw like an upside down Y and it's kind of like the detail inside of that ear. So that's a very simplified way of drawing, you know, Stud's head shape first. Now, after you do that, you're going to want to have a measure for where the eyes are going to be. Now, I don't necessarily do this all the time just because, you know, I know where they go. But just to show you guys the lines are going to be, you know, at the top of the ear and bottom of the ear. And this is where, you know, Stud's eyes are going to be. Now, Stud is very young, so his eyes are huge. So you can draw big circles. And inside of those circles, you're going to draw other smaller circles. And those are going to be his, you know, pupils. Now for his nose, you know, there's several different ways to do this. But what I usually do is I do this, you know, I you know, it's kind of like a instead of drawing a four like that, you know, you're drawing a four very loosely. But it's going to be a, you know, kind of backwards. So, you know, that's that's his nose right there. And then, you know, for his eyelashes, you're going to draw kind of like, you know, upside down Us. And then for his smile, you're going to draw a D, but the rounded part is going to be facing downwards. So that way when you put lines to it kind of looks like a smile, right? Yeah. Then you're going to draw some bangs. Now, for Stud, he usually has three bangs. One, two, three. And then he has a small sideburn right there. And then I usually add another bang or something right there. And I have the top and then he has an antenna. And there's two spikes. There you got. Let me zoom out a little bit. Now, this is Stud. When I am talking and trying to teach everybody how to draw him. Oh, that's, so he looks, in my opinion, kind of off. But I'm going to draw him one more time. So that way you guys hopefully will be able to follow all of these steps and you'll be able to use them, you know, for yourself. And this time I'm going to do it

actually with a markers. That way it looks a little better and, you know, pops up a lot easier. So I have the circle on my head already. So I'm just going to start off with his his cheek and his chin. And I got his ears. It's got that nose, the eyes. All right. He's got the three bangs, he's got one more bang on that side and then boom. That is Stud, everybody. I hope that this has, you know, taught you how to draw my character. You know, this is like I said, you know, Stud, he is the main character of Hammer Volume one. And Volume two actually hopefully there are several volumes coming your way, but these are the first two that are going to be coming out this year. This is already out and this comes out in November. But, you know, hopefully now that you guys know how to draw Stud, you can, you know, draw him for your friends and, you know, tell them that, you know, this crazy laughing man, you know, taught you how to draw. Now, let me show you one more tutorial on how to draw this other character inside of volume one of Hammer. That is Detective Dan, by the way, and I'm going to show you how to draw him in about nine easy steps. So first and foremost, like I said earlier, you're going to draw a circle and, you know, it doesn't need to be perfect. So, you know, don't worry about that. But, you know, you're going to draw a circle just to kind of determine the, you know, the the size of the head. And then you're going to draw the bottom half of a square starting and connecting, you know, the sides of each, you know the sides of the circle. So that way you can draw the jaw. Then you're going to draw the ears using the same steps that I laid out earlier, you know, detail them with that, you know, upside down Y. And then you're going to draw two giant squares. Right where the eyes are going to go and these two giant squares are going to be, you know, his glasses, they're you know, kind of special. So, to draw nose, you're going to draw a upside down C or a C that's pointing downward, I guess, kind of like for his small button nose and then draw the mouth. You know, want to, you know, kind of make them look a little bit more fuller. So you're going to have a small curved line under and you're going to, you know, have a one line over this middle line. So yeah. And then you're going to have these oval shapes in the middle. That's where his eyes are going to go. And Dan has very, very thick eyebrows. So. You know, and he's not really the happiest guy in the world. No, because he's super serious. But there you go, you're going to draw these rectangles for his eyebrows. I think I said eyelashes earlier for stud. So my apologies. But you know you know what I mean? Anyway, after you do that, you're going to draw his hairstyle, which are, you know, these seven gigantic noodle like strands. What they are is a you know, these are thick, cartoony cornrows. And I, you know, you know, they're just super cartoony, very quick and, you know, very fun to draw. So, you know, hopefully you guys enjoy drawing this. But after you draw all seven of them, three on this side, three on that side and one in the middle, you're going to, you know, kind of have one come down right here. You can have another one. Come over here. Zoom out a little bit. All right. And then you're going to go through every single one of these by drawing kind of like a circle or a half circle or, you know, just kind of a curved line through every single strand. And just to add a little detail to it. And after you do that. You technically are done. I mean, you know, you don't have to add anything else. But, you know, I want to show you guys one more cool technique. You know, this is a step, step number nine. No one's ever really name a number at any of these steps, but, you know, whatever. I mean, I hope that is still, you know, getting through to you guys. Hopefully, you guys are, you know, enjoying this. But what are you going to do to deter them? Is I, I'm assuming a little bit, you know, go through each one of these and you're going to add, I'm doing zigzags, but you don't have to do zigzags. You just do these lines that are curve, curvy. And, you know, just have them go along every single strand. Make them big and small. The smaller they are, the more detailed and professional I guess they look. But I mean, you know, just for tutorial purposes, I'm going to go a quick so that way you guys kind of just get the gist. But I again, I want to thank you all for, you know, watching this. I truly appreciate it. You know, hopefully you guys have enjoyed this mini tutorial, both of these mini editorials as well as

also, you know, I've changed your mind on, you know, buying my comic Hammer, hopefully I've changed it to yeah, I'm going to buy that as opposed to, you know, he talks too much. But regardless, regardless, I hope you enjoyed this. And, you know, you can take these skills with you inside of your classroom. If you go to school, you know, whether you're an adult, just trying to waste time or a kid just doodling away. But regardless, thank you very much. I appreciate it.

Odunze Oguguo [00:15:28] Hey, guys. It's Odunze Oguguo again here, 'Whyt Manga', the creator of Apple Black, published and serialised in Saturday AM. Here to share another nice, lovely tutorial with you guys. I'm trying to start you guys off and how to draw any anime manga face, starting with a basic circle. It doesn't have to be a perfect circle. Split it equally into four parts, extend the top side, which would be the upper part of the head and then do the same for the lower. But have it come together a little bit more, kind of stretch it out a bit, kind of like one end of an egg. You have that going for you. And then underneath the horizontal line you have the ear and you can have like a basic circle shape just in the worst place. Just make sure it doesn't go above the horizontal line, or at least it doesn't go above it too much. So we can actually have it go above this a little bit. And then you have lines for the neck. The thicker the lines, the more muscular the character is going to look. So I'll leave that up to you. You have that done. Figure out with simple shapes where the eyes are going to be. Right. You have one. If this is the middle of this part of the line, the middle here you have circle, just to let us know where it's going to be positioned. So here. It's not touching either end. There is still enough room here in the middle you have somewhat of a triangle. Just let us know where the nose is going to be positioned and then the mouth will be somewhere here all within that initial circle. The eyebrows, if you get the height of the ear, eyebrows would be somewhere here. And then with all of this, we can then figure out how our character is going to look. I'm just erasing lightly, but I can still see where everything is placed. With the eyes, you want a shape, it's up to you what shape you use. I'm going to go with a rhombus here and then kind of symmetrical to the opposite. Rhombus is this. This is the shape. And that's what we'll do in kind of make it a little bit more organic looking. You always want to have the upper part of the eyes to be thicker, to symbolise the eyelids. And then I always, in my style have two lines. You can come up with your own shapes and decide how you want to do this. But again, the upper lines are thicker for the eyelashes above. And then I have two lines. The lower lashes underneath the nose can really be however you want the nose to be. The Nose could literally be a dot. We see that a lot in anime, manga, all of that. It's up to your style. I like to have something that goes like so. Same thing with a mouth. It could literally be like a dot. You can have the character smile, try to have fun. Going to have the characters smile a bit. And I have these lines for just to show the upper, uh, the lips. The upper part of the lip and then now I'm going out with more detail for the rest of the face. Have the ear. You can have a simple thing if you just try to follow along. So while that wasn't as simple to be fair. But then, even with the other ear for a simple one, you'll find a lot in cartoons are just literally just this. It's up to you. Up to you. The eyebrows. It's the same thing where you can start with a simple shape and then go in. I could have had my eyebrows just be this, and then that would have been the eyebrows. I want you guys to have fun and whatever shape you come up with for your own eyebrows, your own character. Same thing for eyes. And I like to have a little bit for the iris and the pupil. We have another black dot in the middle. Sometimes you have lines to symbolise the eyelids. If you want. And then now you can add the hair, hairline, and there you go. This is a simple approach to drawing a character. With a anime manga style. And if you keep experimenting and making changes in all the places I mentioned earlier with the eyes, the nose, the mouth. Finding your own ways to draw these very simple, basic things. You can come up... It can help you develop your own art style. Another book that will help greatly is our How to Draw Diverse Manga, and it's going

to teach you a lot of stuff on how to draw all kinds of things. It's a lot of fun. Thank you, guys, and I hope you guys enjoyed this tutorial.

Jey Odin [00:20:51] Thanks again for watching. I hope you learnt something and if you did then please go check out Hammer as well as also all of the other books that are going to be coming out inside of Saturday AM. We're releasing ten this year and we're just super excited to get them to you guys. Also, there are several events going on right now for every age group in the Reading is Magic Festival and you can watch them at any time on their website. So go check that out. And thanks again for watching. I really appreciate it. You guys all rock. Deuces.

Laura Layfield [00:21:28] Thank you so much, guys, for teaching us how to draw manga characters. That was absolutely amazing. And one of Cressida Cowell's Waterstone's Children's Laureate charter themes for this week is that we all have the right to see ourselves reflected in books. And Saturday AM Manga is on a real mission to reflect their readers regardless of race, ethnicity or gender, which is absolutely brilliant. We would love to see your creations, by the way. Do get them into us so that we can put them in our creative gallery.