

# DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATE A BOOK COVER

Rewilding  
Life

**BRIEF: DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATE A BOOK COVER THAT CAPTURES THE MAGIC OF NATURE BASED ON YOUR EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE. COME UP WITH A BOOK TITLE AND ADDING MAGICAL TOUCHES USING GRAPHICS, COLOUR OR EXPRESSIVE LINE WORK.**

This activity is based on the process I use as a professional designer and is suitable for high school students. Feel free to adapt or help younger children. I hope you enjoy it!

## YOU WILL NEED

- SKETCHBOOK OR NOTEBOOK
- A PENCIL FOR FIELD NOTES AND ROUGH SKETCHES
- A3 CARD STOCK (OR PAPER)
- PAINTS, MARKERS OR OTHER ART MATERIALS FOR FINAL ART

## 1 FIELD NOTES

- Grab your sketchbook or notebook and a pencil and find a park, local reserve or garden to explore (or look through a window from home if you can't go outside).
- Walk slowly and pay attention to what you hear and see. **Stop often and draw things that catch your interest.** It could be a leaf on the ground, texture of bark, a bird in a tree. The drawings are reference for your cover illustration and they don't need to be perfect. **Drawing helps you observe and really notice what you see.** You can count how many petals make up the flower, or notice the structure of a leaf. **Make notes of colours, and other distinguishing features and also how you felt.**
- When you have a handful of drawings and notes you can head home to start your artwork.

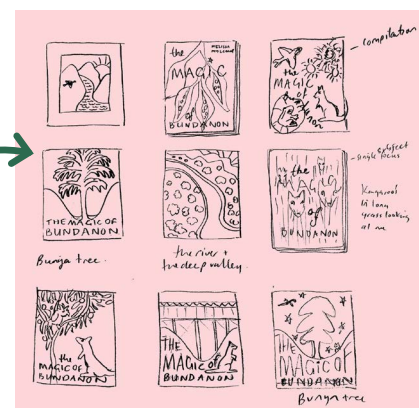
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME IDEAS FOR MAKING FIELD NOTES WATCH THIS YOUTUBE TUTORIAL BY AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR TRACE BALLA



## 2 THUMBNAIL DRAWINGS

These are very rough mini-cover drawings to explore your design ideas.

- Fill a page of your sketchbook or notebook with around 9 mini rectangle outline shapes (book cover shape).
- Come up with a book title.
- Fill each rectangle with ideas on what your book cover will look like. Look at real book covers for inspiration. You may choose to go super simple with a single leaf design, or create a scene/landscape image, or have a mix of many separate illustrations.
- Play with how your cover title will fit on the cover. And leave room for your name as author too.
- Think how you might add some 'magic' to your cover - some stars or starbursts? Magical colours?



## 3 COVER ART

Select your favourite mini cover drawing and use it as a guide to draw a pencil outline of your cover design onto a piece of A3 card. Don't forget to pencil in the cover title. Use art materials of your choice to colour your design.