



BRUCE MUSEUM  
1 Museum Drive • Greenwich, CT

# JAMES STEVENSON: ILLUSTRATING LIFE



JAMES STEVENSON THE SEA VIEW HOTEL. UNPUBLISHED IMAGE.  
PAGE 19. BLACK INK AND PENCIL ON PAPER. COURTESY OF THE  
ESTATE OF JAMES STEVENSON.

The Bruce Museum in Greenwich, CT, is always excited to show the work of local artists. In the *Fun / No Fun: Children's Book Art* by James Stevenson exhibition, the Museum proudly showcases the work of CT artist James Stevenson (1929-2017). Stevenson, who was a cartoonist for *The New Yorker* as well as an author and illustrator of children's books, was known for his ability to take moments from daily life and turn them into simple but memorable

images. Stevenson was able to take his own experiences; playing in the woods, making snowmen, swimming with his family, and turn them into meaningful images which illustrate stories that we still read today. Using simple materials, colored pencils, and watercolors, Stevenson illustrated the many seasons of childhood pleasures.

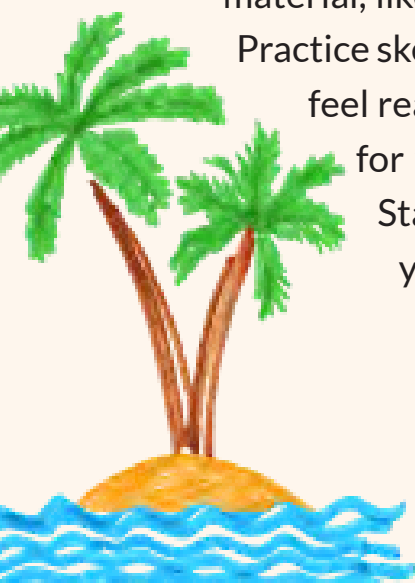


STEVENSON, JAMES. FUN/ NO FUN.  
NEW YORK: GREENWILLOW BOOKS, 1994.

## Now You Try!

For James Stevenson, creating and illustrating children's books was freeing. It gave him the opportunity to create his own worlds of characters, settings, and action. You can do the same thing! All you need are some basic art supplies like watercolors, colored pencils or even markers and crayons, and a nice big piece of blank paper. You may want to use source material, like photos of the locations you want to draw, or a view of your own back yard.

Practice sketching the places and people that you see around you, using a pencil until you feel ready to create your story. When you are ready, create a short script or outline for your story, then think about how many pictures you will use to illustrate it. Start simple with only 2 or 3 and then see how many you want to add or where you want to go next. Have fun, and remember, it's your story to tell!



### Common Core State Standard:

Standard: ELA: Literacy: R.L. 3.3-5.3, R.L. 3.7-6.7, R.L. 3.1-5.1, R.L. 6.4-8.4, R.H. 6-8.4, R.H. 6-8.7



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