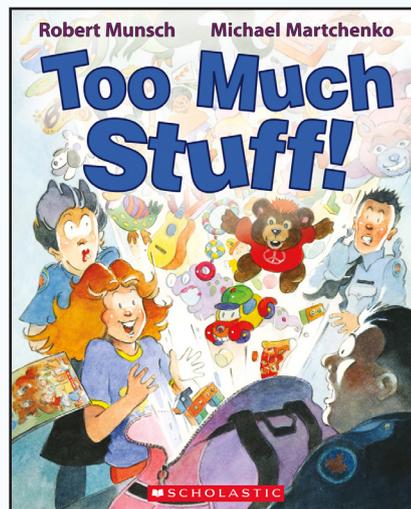


Book Fair Illustrator Spotlight On...



Michael Martchenko

Too Much Stuff!



Q What inspires you to draw?

A When I read the script for a book, I begin to form what I call 'mind drawings'. These ideas I transfer to paper in the form of thumbnail drawings to plot out the book. So I suppose my drawings are inspired by the written word.

Q What advice do you have for young illustrators?

A My advice to young illustrators would be to study other artists work. Let yourself be influenced by them if you admire their work. You will eventually develop your own style. Plus, draw, draw, draw! Just take timeout to shower and eat once in a while!

Q What was your favourite book when you were growing up?

A I didn't have many books when I was a kid. I liked the classics featuring coloured illustrations, such as *Treasure Island*, *Ivanhoe* and *Knights of the Round Table*. I loved comic books, they really piqued my interest in visual humour, which has come in very handy!

Q What do you like to do when you're not drawing?

A I like to go 'antiquing' or 'junking', attend air shows and do aviation art, I like going to the cottage, visiting museums, watching movies and listening to music in addition to playing my guitar.

Q What has been the biggest achievement of your career so far?

A No one single achievement I don't think. The continued appeal of our books. The success of the *Paper Bag Princess* and producing a number of limited edition aviation art prints.

Q Have you ever drawn yourself into any of your illustrations?

A No I have never put myself into an illustration. I've used characters from other books, Robert Munsch and our dog, Mindy, but not me.

