

Naomi Bennet

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Cambridge, but was raised in Leeds, a town called Harlow in Essex, and also a town called Thatcham in Berkshire.

Where did you go to school?

I went to primary school both in Harlow and in Thatcham, and my secondary school was called Kennet, in Thatcham.

What was the best / worst thing about your school?

I loved creative activities, and found ways to enjoy that aspect in my subjects, such as making posters in History lessons. I enjoyed studying a variety of subjects, but got frustrated when it took me a long time to understand what I was learning.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

For a long time I wanted to be an actress.

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

I always struggle to pick a favourite because I love loads of books, but I absolutely adored (and still do) *Mog the Forgetful Cat*.

What are your hobbies?

I love spending time outdoors, exploring interesting settings like tunnels in the woods, rocky mountains or wild beaches. I enjoy anything creative, like pottery painting and baking, and I enjoy these even more when doing them with friends or family.

What makes you happy?

Cake. Books I don't want to put down. Watching a new film.

What makes you angry?

I don't get cross easily, but I feel really angry when people are treated unfairly.



When did you consider being an illustrator?

It felt like a faraway dream when I was little. As soon as I transferred from a Fine Art course to an Illustration course at university, I realised instantly that illustration felt like home.

From where do you get your ideas?

From little details in life that feel unusual. This is often during those moments when I feel extremely joyful or sad.

Are there any themes which particularly appeal to you?

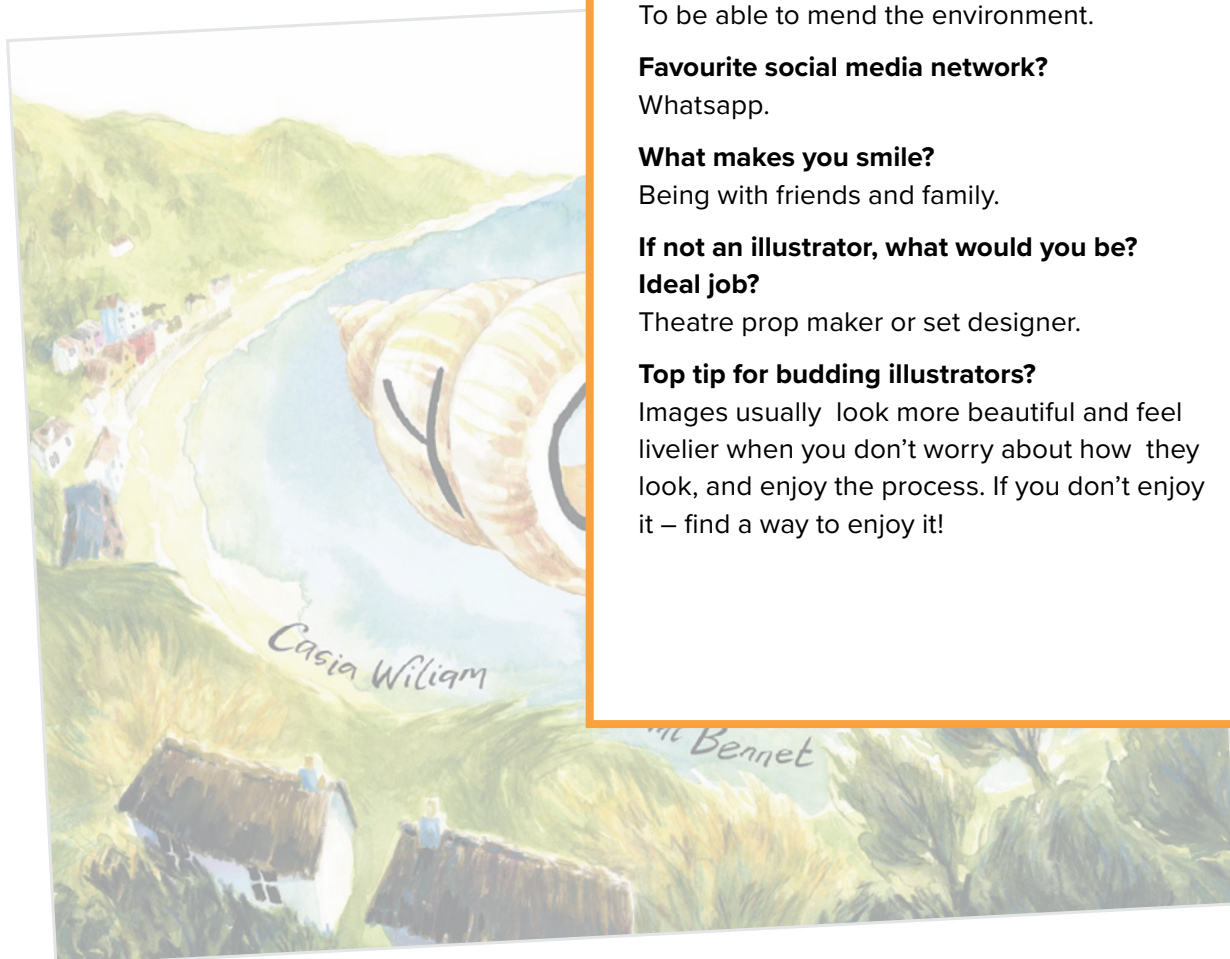
I always enjoy looking at a variety of topics. However, I have a real interest in nature, how it feels to be alive, and the connections between people.

What advice can you give to budding illustrators?

Drawing the real world from observation – people, places, objects and animals, even if they are moving – is the best way to get better at drawing. I wish I had done more observation drawing earlier. It is difficult, but it is certainly true that the more you do it the better you get!

What's the best / worst part about being an illustrator?

The best thing is getting to make images come to life on a page, and to share that vision with others. The worst thing is that sometimes it can take a long time for ideas to flow, so there can be lonely and frustrated hours sat at my desk.

**Quick fire questions:****Favourite childhood book?**

Mog the Forgetful Cat.

Favourite character from a children's book?

Luna Lovegood from the Harry Potter books

Favourite place?

My granny's garden.

Favourite food?

Chocolate brownies.

Favourite film or show?

Film: *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*; TV

Show: *Death in Paradise.*

Favourite word?

Vivid.

Superpower of choice?

To be able to mend the environment.

Favourite social media network?

Whatsapp.

What makes you smile?

Being with friends and family.

If not an illustrator, what would you be?**Ideal job?**

Theatre prop maker or set designer.

Top tip for budding illustrators?

Images usually look more beautiful and feel livelier when you don't worry about how they look, and enjoy the process. If you don't enjoy it – find a way to enjoy it!