

Date: 19/05/2016
Author/Interview subject: Ed Vere (EV)
Interviewed by: Janice Forsyth (JF)
Other speakers: Audience (Aud), Boy (Boy), Girl (Girl), Teacher (T)

JF: Hello, everybody.

Aud: Hello.

JF: Hello everyone, and hello out there. Thank you so much for joining us. My name is Janice Forsyth, I'm so thrilled you're with us for this very special edition of Authors Live, and in Scotland it's also a very, very special week. It's Bookbug Week here in Scotland, and what that means is that lots of children just like you, with their families, all over the country will be celebrating what they love about poetry, about singing, about rhyme, about stories and also about drawing picture books too. Very, very important.

With me this morning, you might just have heard their lovely voices, a particularly brilliant bunch of young people have joined me to keep us all company. A wonderful group of pupils from Primary 1 from two schools, from Heriot Primary in Renfrewshire, and from Carbrain Primary in North Lanarkshire. Have a wee look, we're going to wave to this camera over here. Have a wee wave, and you can see each other and wave. Say, hello.

Aud: Hello

JF: Hi. They're a lovely friendly bunch, I told you they were. Now, are you all huge picture book fans? Do you like picture books?

Aud: Yes.

JF: Phew, that's a relief. I'm very, very...are you? Brilliant, delighted to hear it, because today we are joined by an incredibly talented author of picture books, also an illustrator. One of the best in the country, yeah. He has won and been nominated for all kinds of awards and his books are translated into lots of languages so that children just like you, just like you, can read them and enjoy

them all over the world. Today, he's going to be telling us some stories – that's good, isn't it? Yes. Doing some drawing and telling us about some of his favourite characters. Now, of course, it would be really great if you like drawing, and I'm sure you do, that you could draw along with us. Would you like to do that?

Aud: Yes.

JF: Brilliant. So if you're in a classroom or whatever, just make sure...I'm sure you've got one already, but you've got your pencil and a piece of paper handy, and it would be nice for us to see what you're doing, so your teacher will tell you whether you've got a classroom Twitter account. If you do, just use the hashtag #BBCAuthorsLive, and that means that we can see all your marvellous drawings. Right, I'll stop talking because it's time now for all of you here and all of you here too to do a huge round of applause and massive cheering for our very special guest. Are you ready?

Aud: Yes.

JF: Please welcome, Ed Vere.

[Applause]

EV: Hello, hello. So, my name is Ed, but I don't know any of your names, and there's a lot of you. So if I asked you one by one, it's going to take a long time, and if I ask all of you one by one, it's going to take forever. So when I count to three, I want you all to say your first name as loud as you can, here and at home. One, two, three.

Aud: [Shout out names]

EV: Excellent. Okay, thank you, I think I've got all of your names now. I've probably remembered all of those, and those at home. So, yeah, can we also just say hello to all...there are thousands and thousands of children there. I don't know if they're in that camera, but can we all wave to them and say hello?

Aud: Hello.

EV: And they're waving and saying hello back, I'm sure. So I'm going to read you a couple of stories and we might, we might, do some drawing. Does anybody here like drawing?

Girl 1: Me!

EV: Yeah, some of you like drawing. Okay, does anybody there like drawing? Stick your hands up if you do. Okay, you lot, put your hands up again if you like drawing. I want to know what you like to draw. So, what do you like to draw?

Boy 1: SpongeBob.

EV: He likes to draw SpongeBob. What about you?

Boy 2: [inaudible 0:04:00].

Boy 3: Ninja Turtles.

EV: Ninja Turtles, okay. What do you like to draw?

Girl 2: Cats.

EV: Cats. What about you? What do you like drawing?

Girl 3: I like to draw butterflies. Love hearts and butterflies.

EV: Love hearts and butterflies. Any of the boys like drawing love hearts and butterflies? No, not a single one? Not a single one, I don't believe it. What about you, what do you like drawing?

Boy 4: Spiderman and Captain America and...

EV: Spiderman and Captain America.

Boy 4: ...Antman.

EV: And Antman. What about you?

Girl 4: Cats.

EV: Cats? Hands up if you like drawing cats. That's quite a few of you. Hands up if you think we might be drawing some cats later. Okay, now then, hands down. Shall we read some stories?

Aud: Yes.

EV: I'm going to read you two stories today, I'll show you what they are. These are books that I wrote and illustrated, so the first one is called...can you read that?

Aud: Max the Brave.

EV: Very good, Max the Brave. Now, somebody else. Who's good at reading? You're good at...are you good at reading? Now, hold on, wait a minute, I'm going to give you another title. What does that say?

Girl 5: Max and a bird.

EV: Max and Bird. Which one's Max and which one's Vird? That's Max. Which is Max, that's Max?

Girl 5: No.

EV: No, that's...which one's that?

Girl 5: The bird.

EV: Well done, you're very good. Okay, and this book is so new it's not even...it's in the shops in two weeks, it's not even out yet. Nobody has ever heard this story before, you're the first to hear it. But I'm going to read this one first. Okay, are you ready?

Aud: Yeah.

EV: Are you ready?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Good. So, Max the Brave. It's a story of a young elephant.

Aud: Cat.

EV: That's...is that...that's an elephant though, isn't it?

Aud: No, that's a cat!

EV: Are you sure it's a cat?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Hands up if you think that's an elephant. Quite a few hands up, wasn't there? Hands up if you think it's a cat? Okay, quite a lot of you. Maybe you're right, let's have a look. So, this is Max. Doesn't Max look sweet?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Do you think he looks sweet?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Max looks so sweet that sometimes people dress him up in ribbons. Does he look like he's really happy to meet...

Aud: No.

EV: He's not...what, do you think he doesn't like being dressed up in ribbons?

Aud: No.

EV: Hands up if you like being dressed up in ribbons? Some of the girls. Hands up if you really don't like...you like being dressed up in ribbons sometimes? Hands up if you...which is good. Hands up if you don't like being dressed up in ribbons. Quite a few of you, quite a few of you don't. Now, let's see what Max does. Oh, look, Max does not like being dressed up in ribbons. What's he doing here?

Girl 6: [Laughs] He's stamping on them.

EV: He's stamping on them because Max is a fearless kitten, Max is a brave kitten. Max is a kitten who chases...

Boy 5: Birds.

Girl 6: Rats.

EV: Mice. Maybe rats too, but mice. Does anybody here...actually, does anybody down there...do you know what a mouse looks like? What about you lot, do you know what a mouse looks like? Now then, who am I going to ask? Not somebody in the front row. What about you, what does a mouse look like?

Girl 7: A mouse has a body and it has a tail.

EV: It has a body. Is the body enormous?

Girl 7: No.

EV: Or is it tiny?

Girl 7: It's tiny.

EV: Okay, that's pretty good. Anybody else with further clues on what mice look like? What about you, young man?

Boy 6: Their skin is big and hairy and gross and it has a pink...

EV: Their skin is hairy, yeah.

Boy 6: ...tail and they run about.

EV: How many legs have they got?

Boy 6: Four, and they run fast.

EV: Four, very good. They've got four legs. Okay, now then, let's have a look. So now we know that a mouse is small, it's got four legs. Has it got ears like that?

Aud: Yes.

EV: And it's got a tail. So, Max the Brave just needs to find out what a mouse looks like and then he will chase it. So, hold on, he doesn't know what a mouse looks, like, how is he going to chase it? What should he do?

Boy 7: He needs to chase it.

EV: He does need to chase it but he's got to find out what it looks like, so maybe there's a mouse in here. Do you think there's a mouse in here?

Aud: No.

EV: Max bravely explores the can. Mouse, are you in? Hmm, mouse isn't here but, oh hello, what sound does this creature make?

Aud: Meow.

EV: No, what sound does that little creature there make?

Aud: Bzzzz.

EV: Can you all make that sound?

Aud: Bzzzz.

EV: Are you a mouse? No, I'm a fly, says fly, but I just saw mouse scurry by a moment ago. What sound does this little creature make?

Boy 8: Splash.

EV: What sound does it make? Bloop-bloop, bloop-bloop, bloop-bloop. Can you all do that? Bloop-bloop.

Aud: [Various noises]

EV: Hmm, maybe this is what mouse looks like. Excuse me, please, but are you mouse?

Girl 8: That's a fish.

EV: I'm not mouse, I'm fish, says fish, but I just saw mouse dash outside. Are these mice up in the tree?

Aud: No.

Girl 9: No, they're birds.

EV: That must be mouse, thinks Max, up in the tree. Excuse me, please, but are you mouse? Are you mouse?

Aud: No.

EV: No, are you sure? Have a think about it, are you mouse? No, we're not mouse, we're birds, say the birds, but we did, we did just say Max stoop by. He went that way. What sound does that creature make?

Aud: [Shout out different answers]

EV: What sound does it make? Can you make that sound?

Aud: [Various noises]

EV: Can we have a look here, please? Just show all the children at home. And, you, what sound does that make? You were just doing it, now you're shy. Anybody else? What sound does that make?

Aud: Mmmm.

EV: Very good, that's extremely convincing. I'm impressed. Excuse me, but would you happen to be mouse?

Boy 9: No.

EV: Eek, mouse? I'm not mouse, I'm elephant, says elephant, but I did just see mouse skitter by. Thank you very much, says Max, because he's very polite. And, you? What sound does this creature make?

Aud: Squeak-squeak.

EV: Squeak-squeak? Does a mouse have a tail like that?

Aud: No.

EV: No, what has a tail like that?

Girl10: A bunny rabbit.

EV: A bunny rabbit. And he's saying, no, thataway. Do you think Max is ever going to find a mouse? Do you think it's going to happen in this story?

Aud: Yeah.

EV: Do you? Shall we have a look?

Aud: Yeah.

EV: Oh, what sound does this creature make?

Aud: Squeak-squeak.

EV: Can you show all the children here what sound that creature makes?

Aud: Squeak-squeak.

EV: And can you lot all do it back, please? Thank you, excellent. So, Max says, hello there, are you mouse, by any chance?

Girl11: No.

EV: Are you?

Girl11: [Laughs] No.

EV: And he says, who, me? No, certainly not. I'm monster, squeaks mouse.

Girl12: Argh!

EV: But I did just see mouse asleep over there. If you're very quick, you might catch him. Thank you very much, says Max. This must be mouse, is that a mouse?

Aud: No.

EV: What sound does that creature make?

Aud: Roar!

EV: Roar, roar! This must be mouse. Hmm, I didn't know mouse was so big. Ahem, excuse me, mouse, will you wake up, please? I am Max the Brave and I have come to chase you. Do you think this is a good idea?

Aud: No.

EV: Wakey-wakey mouse, yells Max, as he bounces up and down on monster's head. I am Max the Brave and I chase mice, and I might just eat you up too. What do you think about that?

Aud: No.

EV: Yes, no?

Boy10: No.

EV: Is this still a good idea to jump up and down on a monster's head?

Aud: No!

EV: Hands up if you would jump up and down on a monster's head. You would? Okay. Teachers, I think you need to, you know, sort this out. It's not a good idea. Hmm, my goodness, somebody's woken up. Who has woken up?

Girl13: The monster.

EV: The monster, and who is just next to his mouth?

Girl13: Max.

Aud: Max.

EV: And Max is saying, hmm, I didn't know mouse had such big teeth. Now then, now then, now then. What do you think is going to happen? Do you think Max is going to eat the monster up?

Aud: No.

EV: Do you think the monster is going to eat Max up?

Aud: Yes.

Aud: No.

EV: What do you think at home, and at schools and libraries everywhere? Shall we see?

Aud: Yes.

EV: One, two, three, gulp. And here is a tiny gulp. Whose tiny gulp is that?

Boy11: Max.

EV: Max, so Max has been eaten by the monster?

Girl14: Yes.

EV: And that's the end of the story.

Boy12: No.

EV: It's a really sad ending, I'm afraid. Do you mind when Max just gets eaten by the monster?

Aud: No.

Girl15: I think he's still alive.

EV: Do you think...no, he's been eaten by the monster, that's it. [Laughs]

Girl16: He's kidding on.

EV: Okay, hold on. Wait a minute, let's see, maybe not. What happens when you have an allergic reaction? Do you sneeze?

Girl17: Yeah.

EV: And do you say atchoo when you sneeze? Okay, so after three, I want you all to say atchoo...one, two, three...

Aud: Atchoo!

EV: Ah, that's lucky. This monster has a cat allergy, so he sneezed out Max and Max says, yuck! And Max decides that chasing mice is not all it's cracked up to be.

Boy13: And he went home and he...

EV: Well, hold on!

Boy13: ...never, ever, ever, ever came back out.

EV: That's a good ending to the story, that's an excellent ending. He went home and he never, ever, ever chased a mouse again.

Boy13: No.

EV: Max decides that chasing mice is not all it's cracked up to be. And, anyway, he doesn't need to be Max the Brave all the time unless...

Boy13: And he went into his...

EV: ...he's out chasing...

Boy13: Mice.

EV: Monsters.

Boy13: I hate monsters.

EV: Is this a monster or a mouse?

Aud: No, that's a mouse.

EV: Is this a mouse who was pretending to be a monster?

Aud: Yes.

EV: It is. Now, then, shall we have another story?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Okay, this story is called...do you remember what it's called? Max and...

Aud: Bird.

EV: Can you all say it at home? Max and...

Aud: Max and Bird.

EV: Very good. So, this is Max. Max is a...

Aud: Cat.

EV: ...cat or a kitten. Kittens chase birds. This is Bird. Bird is a bird. Birds get chased by kittens. Do you think that birds like being chased by kittens?

Aud: No.

EV: Hello, Bird, said Max, let's be friends. Yes, please, said Bird. First I'll chase you, said Max.

Boy14: No, you will not.

EV: Maybe I'll eat you up. You look like a tasty snack. I don't like being chased, said Bird, and I'm far too young to be a tasty snack. I haven't even learnt to fly yet. Oh, said Max, but it's a rule of nature. Birds get chased by kittens. Is that a rule of nature?

Aud: No.

Aud: Yes.

EV: Hands up if you think it is a rule of nature. Do kittens chase birds?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Teachers, I need a bit of participation, please. Do kittens chase birds?

T: Yes.

EV: They do occasionally, but friends don't eat each other up, said Bird. They're not friends yet. Hmm, said Max, we need to think about this. Max and Bird sat and thought a while. Hold on, said Bird, I have an idea. What do you think his idea is going to be?

Girl18: I don't know.

EV: You don't know?

Girl19: Jumping off a building.

EV: Jumping off a building?

Girl19: Yeah.

EV: That's a very...it's an interesting idea. Anybody else, any ideas? What's Bird's idea going to be?

Boy15: Flying.

Boy16: To be friends.

EV: Well, he does want to be friends but Max has got a different idea of friendship, he wants to eat up Bird. Is that how you be friends with someone?

Aud: No.

Aud: Yes.

EV: It's not, is it? Bird explained the principles of friendship to Max. Friends have fun together and help each other out. Is that what friends do?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Yes, it is. So, if you teach me how to fly, said Bird, then we'll talk about the chasing and all of that other stuff, okay? That, said Max, is a very fair plan, and they shook hands on the deal. So Max explained the principles of flight to Bird. Well, Bird, first of all you, ahem, well what you do is...

Girl20: Flap your wings.

EV: ...er, well? Hold on, ahem, coughed Max. I don't think I know how to fly either.

Boy17: He can't.

EV: Because he's a kitten. Do kittens know how to fly?

Aud: No.

EV: No, has anyone seen a flying kitten?

Aud: No.

Aud: Yes.

EV: Quite a few of you have seen a flying kitten, that's interesting. Follow me, said Bird, we'll go to the library, libraries know everything. Some of you are sitting in libraries right now. In the library, there was a section on flying. Max and Bird couldn't reach the books on the top shelf so they borrowed some from the bottom. Max and Bird studied for weeks. They read important books until their tiny brains were full. Have any of you read important books until your tiny brain was full? None of you have read...some of you have read books until your brains were full?

T: [Laughs]

EV: I've done that many times. And you lot, have you? Probably. To cut a long story short, you just need to...number one, can you all do this? Number one, I'm going to teach you how to fly. Well, number one, concentrate hard. Can you concentrate hard?

Aud: Yeah.

EV: Okay, excellent. Are you concentrating hard at home? Number two, stick out your wings. Are all of you sticking out your wings? Thank you. Are you sticking out your wings at home? Number three, flap.

Girl21: I'm flapping.

EV: Who's flying? Is anybody flying yet?

Girl22: Me.

Aud: No.

EV: Are you? Are you sure. Okay, piece of cake. But we're not flying. Max and Bird concentrated hard. They stuck out their wings and they flapped, can you flap? Nothing happened. They flapped in the morning, not a bean. They flapped in the afternoon. Can you flap, can you flap? Not a sausage. They flapped in the evening, they were flapping harder, zilch. Anybody got any lift? Is anybody taking off a little bit?

Girl23: Me.

EV: Anyone at the back? Teachers, are you not taking off? But you're not flapping. Come on, let's have some proper flapping, and you...that's the weakest flapping...

T: [Laughs]

EV: ...I have ever seen. Back here, can we see some flapping? Thank you, that's graceful flapping. Excellent flapping, okay. Max and Bird were tired out. All night long they slept, all night long they dreamt of flying. Look, here's Max in his cape, flying like Supercat. The next day, with heads full of dreams, Max and Bird tried again. Can you flap? They flapped and flapped and flapped and flapped. Can you flap? Can you flap, can you flap? They flapped until they ached. Nothing happened. Bird flipped, Bird stamped, Bird yelled. No fun, I'm bored, bored, bored. Flapping isn't working out. Was flapping working out for anyone here?

Girl24: Yeah.

EV: It wasn't. It wasn't for me.

Girl24: It was for me.

EV: Calm down, said Max, we'll ask somebody who can fly. Can anyone think, who can fly?

Boy18: Me.

Boy19: I can.

EV: You? Who can they ask who can fly? Who should they ask, who should they ask?

Girl25: Millie.

EV: They should ask you? Are you going to tell them how to fly>

Girl25: No.

EV: No? Well, then it's no good asking you. What about any...who should they ask? They should ask you?

Girl26: Yeah.

EV: What are you going to tell them?

Girl26: Right, you need to flap your wings up and down as hard as you can and then you might fly up into the air.

EV: That's very...well, that's exactly what they've been trying to do. Okay, let's have a look. Max and Bird asked Pigeon very politely, excuse us, could you please tell us how to fly? Please? Ha ha, Pigeon cackled rudely, don't you even know how you fly? It's so easy, just stick out your wings and flap. Look. Pigeon flapped. Pigeon flew upside down. Pigeon zigged, Pigeon zagged. Pigeon looped the loop. Pigeon was showing off. Was he showing off?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Yes, he was. With iron resolve, Max and Bird tried once more. They flapped. Can you flap? They flapped and they flapped and they flapped and they flapped and they flapped, and at 5.23pm precisely, precisely 5.23pm, it was wobbly but Bird took off, vroom, like that, and Max looked back in amazement. Hooray! Can you all say hooray?

Aud: Hooray!

EV: Can you say hooray back at home?

Aud: Hooray!

EV: Hooray, we did it! Thank you for teaching me to fly, said Bird. That's what friends are for, said Max. Well, a deal's a deal, said Bird. I suppose you want to eat me up now? Ooh, said Max, a tasty snack. I'd forgotten about that. Let me have a think. What do you think he's going to think? Do you think he's going to decide to eat up Bird anyway?

Aud: No.

Aud: Yes.

EV: Do you want to see? Max had a think, quite a long think, and look he made a list of pros and cons. It says, eating Bird. So, the reasons to eat Bird, very

tasty, tasty snack. The reasons against eating Bird, he would have no friend. I wonder what he's going to decide. Let's have a look.

Girl27: He's going to not eat him.

EV: I don't want to eat you up, said Max, it's not what friends do. But can I watch you fly instead, please, Bird? Can I? Yes, said Bird, and he did his first loop the loop.

Boy20: A love heart.

EV: A love heart. I think that means that they like each other.

Boy20: I like it.

EV: And do you know where Max is sitting?

Boy20: On top of her head.

EV: On top of her head. That's Nelson's Column in London.

Boy20: A hat.

EV: But poor Max can't fly, what's he going to do?

Boy21: Walk.

EV: Walk? [Laughs] Yes, exactly. Walk, or he could get in a plane.

Boy22: No!

EV: So, now then, that's the end of the story. Would anyone like to do some...I think we've got a little bit of time left to do some drawing. Would you like to do some drawing?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Would you like to do some drawing?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Okay, you've got paper and pens under there. We...I am going to show you how to draw something. So you're going to copy what I do. Is that okay, can you do that?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Well done, good. There we go, that's working. So I'm going to stand here and what I draw...this is called a visualizer. So there's a camera pointing down at what I draw, and that's going to be on the screen. It's very complicated. Are you good at very complicated things?

Aud: Yeah.

EV: Are you sure you're very good at complicated things?

Aud: Yes.

EV: Did you say you're very bad at complicated things? I thought you might say that, is it...

T: [Laughs]

Girl28: I'm bad at [inaudible 0:26:48].

EV: Are you? Right, so, let's see. We are going to start and we are going to draw a circle, but copy me. It doesn't need to be too big and it doesn't need to be too small, because there's going to be other stuff that we're fitting on the paper. Does everybody understand at home?

Aud: Yes.

EV: And schools and libraries? Have you all got your paper and pens? Good, so we're going to go. So, here we go. Gosh, is that focused? Not really, let's have a look. There we go, that's focused, I think. So we're going to draw, first of all, a circle like that. Can you all draw a circle like that?

Girl29: I can.

EV: Excellent. What do you think we've drawn? Do you think we...

Girl29: A circle.

EV: It is a circle but what do you think that circle's going to be?

Girl30: An apple.

EV: An apple, okay. Leftfield choice, apple. What do you think it's going to be?

Girl31: A cat.

EV: A cat? What do you think it's going to be?

Girl32: A cat.

Girl33: A cat.

EV: A cat. But is it going to be a head or an eye, or is it going to be the world? Or is it going to be a football or an orange?

Boy23: A football.

EV: A football, okay. Let's see. Now then, I'm going to draw, and I want you to draw, another circle like this.

Aud: Eyes.

EV: You think that...hands up if you think it's eyes. Hands up if you don't think it's eyes. Same at home, is it eyes? So, now, can you do this? This is a kind of complicated bit. I want you to draw a little line like this and a little line like this. And now...

Girl34: You're making mad eyes.

EV: I'm making mad eyes? Now...or determined eyes. We're going to draw a circle like that...are you drawing?

Aud: Yeah.

EV: Very good. And another circle like this.

Girl35: It's an owl.

EV: Now then, can I have a look at your eyes? Can you show the eyes? Very good, excellent. Can you point them all into this camera so everybody at home can see what you're doing? Look, point them all this way. Look at these eyes, aren't they good? Amazing eyes, well done. Good drawing, excellent drawing. Very good. Right, now then, we're going to draw quite...well, we're going to draw an easy bit and then a complicated bit. So the easy bit goes like this, and now the complicated bit. Are you ready?

Boy24: Yeah.

EV: Are you ready for a complicated bit? Are you sure? Okay, so that complicated bit goes...we start here and we go up to here, and then we put in an ear like that, and an ear like that.

Aud: It's a cat.

EV: And we go all the way down like that. And now we're going to draw a line...I bet you can't guess what this is for. We're going to draw a line starting...can you see where my pencil is? Start from here, all the way across to here.

Boy24: We're making SuperMax.

EV: Ah, aren't you clever? [Laughs] So what's SuperMax wearing? What's that called?

Aud: A cape.

EV: A cape, very good.

Boy25: I made a chicken cat.

EV: And now we're going to draw a wiggly line that goes like this, just like that. So now we are going to draw under...what would you tie your cape up with?

Girl36: A tie.

EV: A tie, and what sort of knot would we tie?

Boy26: A bow, a bow.

EV: A bow, exactly. So the irony is, and your teachers are going to explain irony to you later...

T: [Laughs]

EV: ...the irony is that Max ends up wearing a bow. So we draw the bow just like that.

Boy27: And do the tie.

EV: And now, Max is...you said we were drawing superhero Max, what's a superhero pose? How does a superhero pose go? That's very...so that's one superhero pose, excellent. How would you do a superhero pose? Just like that, that's very good. Now, any other superhero poses? Go on, what's your superhero pose? Can you stand up and do it so everyone can see at home? Excellent. Any other superhero poses? You've got one? How does yours go? [Pause] And a look of determination, you're flying to save the world.

T: [Laughs]

EV: Very good, that's a lot of concentration. Okay, but Max...hold on, I need one of the teachers to do a superhero pose. Who's going to volunteer, or I'm just going to brutally...young lady, what's your superhero pose like?

T: Like this.

EV: Look at that, so elegant. The wrist's just like that. [Laughs] Superhero, stylish superhero. Okay, so Max, just before he flies, is like this. Can you all do this?

Boy28: No.

EV: And he's looking determined, ready to save the world. Can you all do that please?

Boy28: From the monster?

EV: So we're going to draw that, and the trick when you're drawing...when you're trying to draw someone in a certain pose, you've got to think, you're sort of acting it. So we're going to act the superhero pose whilst we draw him. So this bit is really simple but we need to sort of get the chest, because the chest is sort of puffed out, isn't it, like this, and then his arms are like that. So we're going to draw his chest starting from here, and a sort of straight back like this. Can you draw it like that?

Girl37: Yes.

EV: And then do you remember how the arms went? They went like...the wrist and the fist were like this. So we're going to draw a shape that goes like this, and then it doesn't quite reach the body, and then another line here like this and that turns into his paw. Is it too complicated or can you do it? Is it okay? I can't hear anyone.

Aud: Yes.

EV: That's better. Okay, and we're going to do another arm like this, and that stops just there, and we're going to do a line like this, just like that. Are you drawing? Can I see? Can't I see?

Girl38: It's far too big.

EV: Oh, it's very good, it's very good. Okay, and now he needs some legs. Okay, so we're going to draw the legs.

Boy29: I'm going to do the legs.

EV: So the legs go like this. Hold on, that's a bit short. Something like that. One leg, another leg just like that, and Max needs...what's missing?

Boy30: An ear.

EV: He's got ears.

Boy30: A tail.

EV: A tail, well done, and the tail...because the cape is flapping in the wind, the tail also is going like this.

Boy30: That's a big tail.

EV: And then, just to make the drawing look extremely real, we draw a shadow.

Girl39: A shadow?

EV: Just like that. Can you do that? Brilliant, and now finally...hands up, are you good at writing? Who's good at writing? We are going to write the letter M.

Boy31: M for Max.

[Pause]

EV: Just like that. We're going to write the letter...what comes after the M?

Boy31: A.

EV: A, very good. And then what comes after the A...

Boy31: X.

Girl40: I know, I know.

EV: An O? Not an O, we're going to spell Max.

Girl 40: No, X.

EV: Oh, can you all say X?

Aud: X.

EV: Very good. We're going to draw a X. That goes like this, and then just at the bottom I want you all to write your first name, just your first name, like that. [Pause] Now then, can I see your drawings, please? Look at that, amazing, wonderful. Very good, excellent, amazing. Can you show your drawings to all the children watching here? Don't you think they're good? And can all of you

hold up your drawings to the TV and show us? They look fantastic, amazing, I'm very impressed. Can I have a look at them all? Very good, excellent. Wonderful, amazing.

You know what, there's one bit I've forgotten. I know you haven't got the colours but when you get back to school you can colour in the cape red, just like that. So I think that is the end of our reading and drawing today. So thank you very much for coming, all of you. Thank you very much for watching at home and in schools and libraries and...

JF: We need to have a huge round of applause, don't you think, a huge round of applause and a cheer for Ed, yes.

[Applause]

EV: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

JF: Everybody out there doing it too.

EV: Thank you, thank you.

JF: There was a slight hesitation there because everyone's so busy drawing still and enjoying it so much.

EV: Well, that's a very good thing.

JF: And I want a red cape now, definitely.

EV: [Laughs]

JF: Thank you so much for all your top tips.

EV: It's a pleasure.

JF: Brilliant session. How much did you enjoy it? Yes!

Aud: Yes.

JF: Fantastic, brilliant. If you would like to watch this again, or maybe tell some of your friends who might not have seen it, the brilliant thing is you'll be able to watch it online very, very soon. All you do is go to the website, which is www.scottishbooktrust.com/authorslive, and you'll be able to watch Ed's session again. And, indeed, you can watch all the other ones that we've done, because we've done tons and they've all been terrific, although maybe not quite as good as this one.

EV: [Laughs]

JF: We'll also have some future broadcasts coming up...

EV: Of course. [Laughs]

JF: Of course. Future broadcasts coming up which you can sign up to as well, so we hope you can join us for that. But, right now, from all of us here, shall we do a big cheer and wave bye-bye? Bye-bye.

Aud: Bye.

JF: Thank you.

EV: Bye.

JF: Thanks very much.

EV: Bye, thank you.