



AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR CREATOR STUDY

PAUL MORTON

What does Paul do?

Paul is a full-time freelance illustrator and has a studio called Hot Frog Graphics. As well as creating books for children he has designed yummy chocolate bars, cereal packs and lots of children's games.



Paul loves drawing pictures. He also likes creating stories. When you add the fact that Paul likes frogs, then the best ever job he can imagine is writing and illustrating books about frogs.



How did he come up with the idea for the Bug Belly books?

Bug Belly first croaked 'hello' to Paul when they were playing a game with his young nephew. Bug Belly was a rubber frog that had lost its squeaker, so insects could be stuffed into his tummy.

Paul thought 'blistering bluebottles' there's a great idea for a children's book!



How does he usually begin writing a book?



Paul usually starts by imagining a busy scene from the story. For example, one where Bug Belly is planning to bag more bugs for his breakfast. That leads him to wonder about all the gadgets Bug Belly might use to help him catch the bugs. When Paul has thought of enough scenes, he then stitches them all together into an exciting story.

How does he create the pictures in the book?

First, Paul roughs out the main scenes in pencil in his notebooks and sketch-books. Then he draws them in a bit more detail on A4 sheets of paper. In total, he produced around 1000 drawings for “Bug Belly : Babysitting Trouble.”



There were so many tadpoles to draw that Paul decided to count them. By the end of the book, he had drawn just over 2,000 individual tadpoles. Phew!

The next step is to add colour. The inside pictures are drawn in pencil, with textures and colour tones added digitally once they have been scanned into a computer.



How does he develop the pictures for the book? part 1

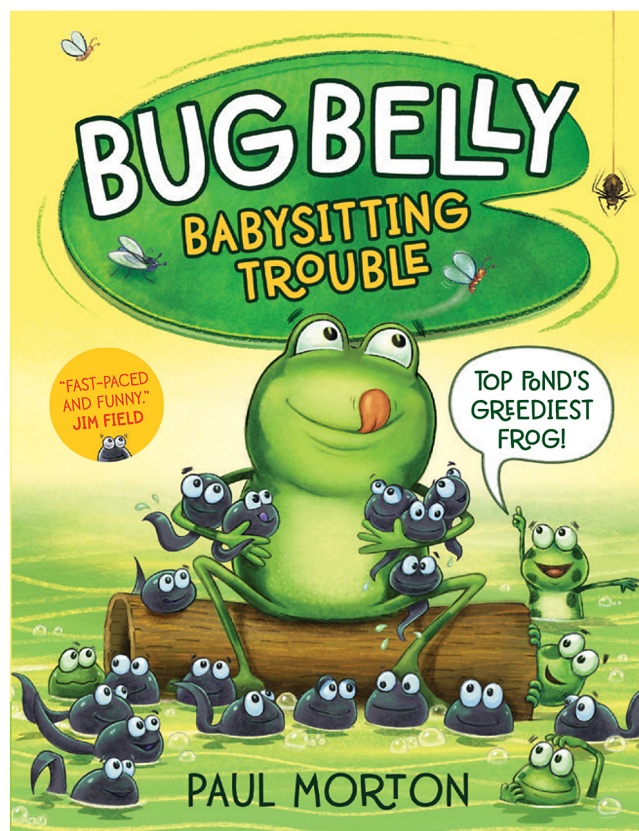
Here is one of the first sketches in Paul's notebook that gave him the initial idea for how tricky it might be to have to babysit hundreds of tadpoles.



This is a later and more developed sketch that eventually became the cover image. You can already see why there are so many taddies to draw!



When Paul is happy with the pencil drawing, it is scanned into the computer. All the colour is then painted and sketched digitally in pastels and crayon using a computer brush called a 'stylus'.

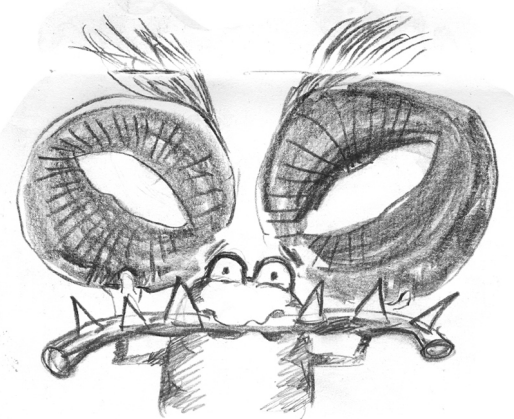


How does he develop the pictures for the book? part 2

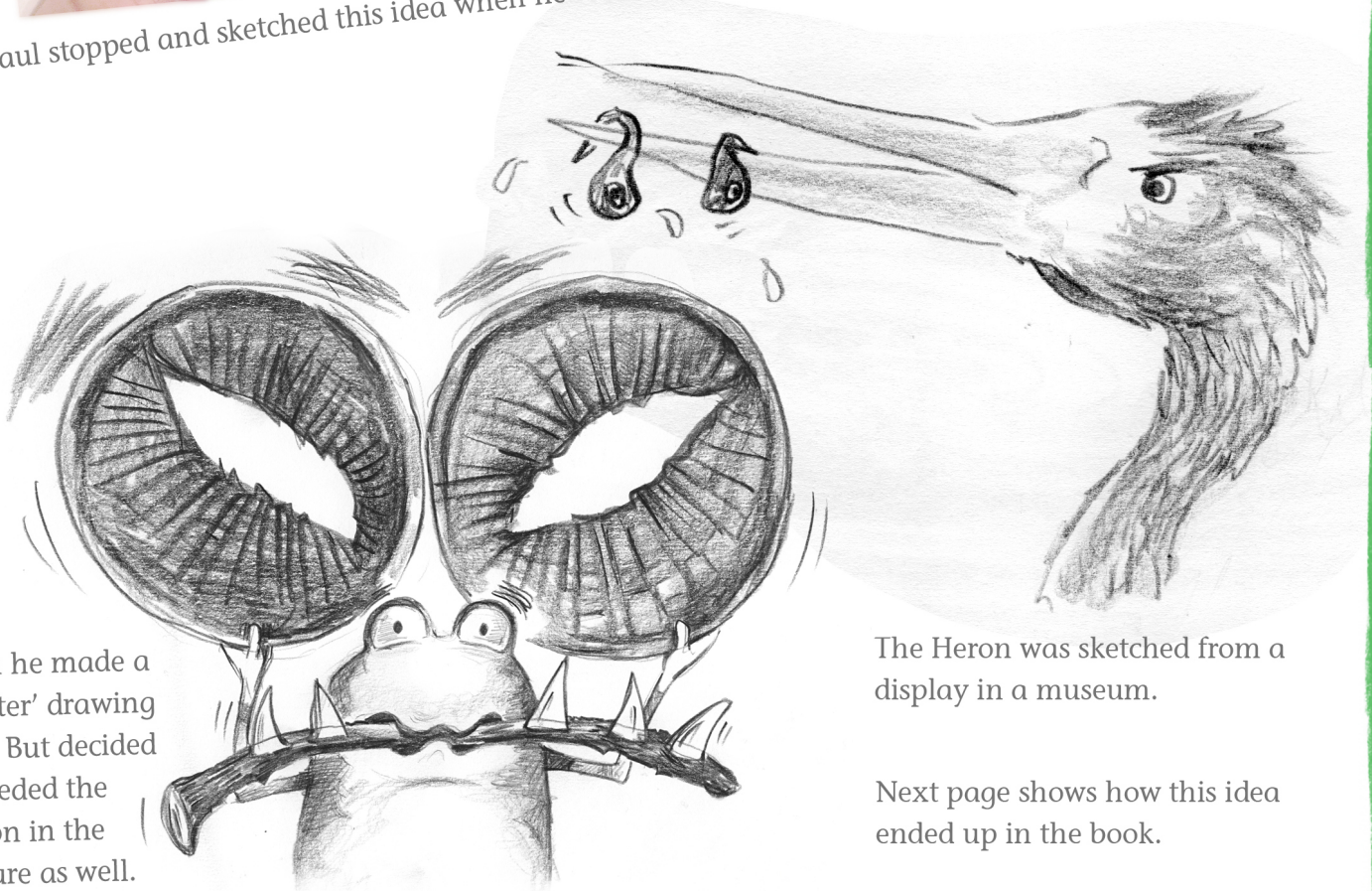
These sketches show how Paul developed the idea of Bug Belly scaring away Heron. He was out on a bike ride when he first 'saw' how Bug Belly could make a brilliant costume to scare away the large beaked predator.



Paul stopped and sketched this idea when he was out riding his bike.



Then developed it slightly when he got home.



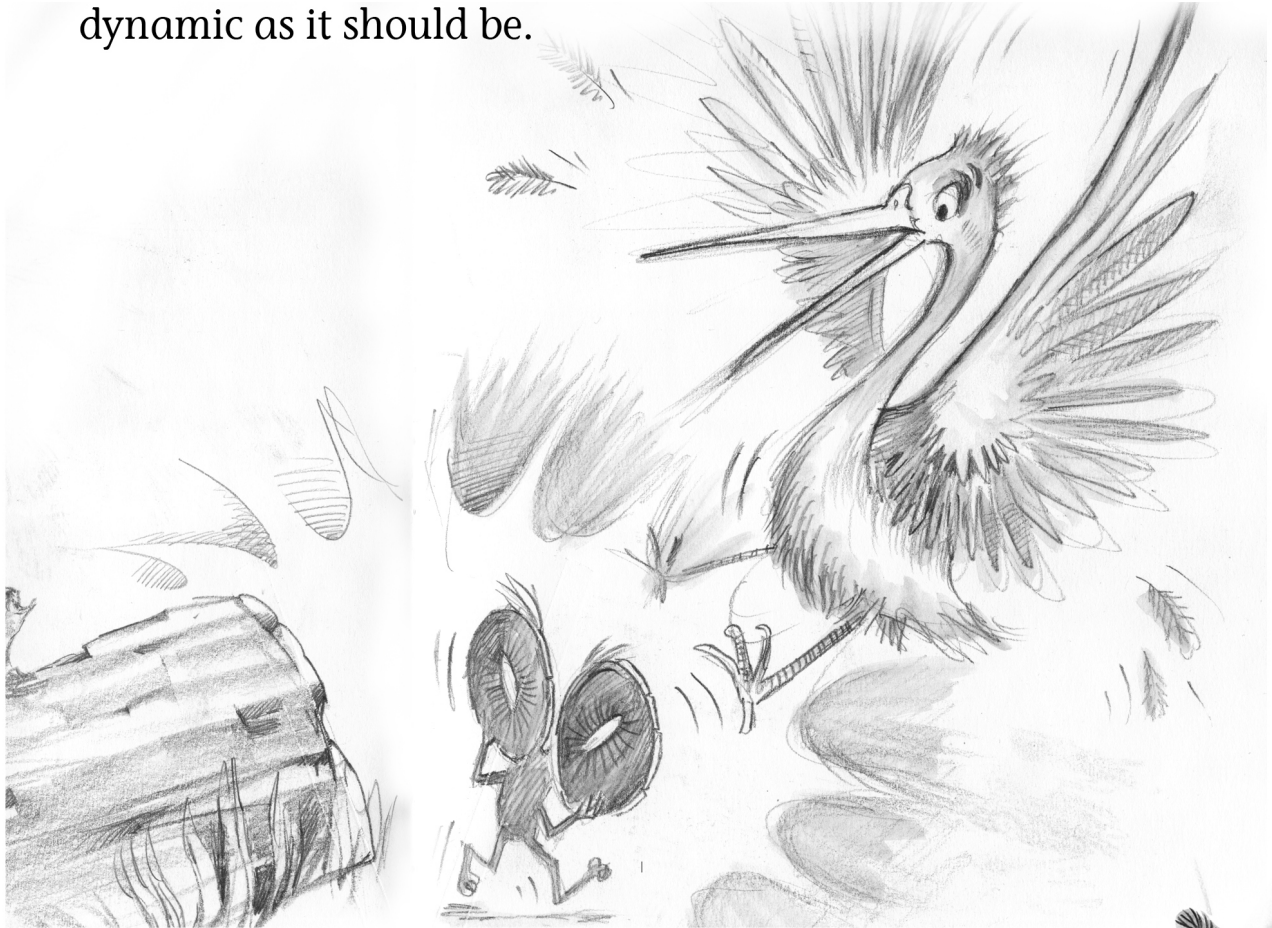
Then he made a 'tighter' drawing of it. But decided it needed the Heron in the picture as well.

The Heron was sketched from a display in a museum.

Next page shows how this idea ended up in the book.

How does he develop the pictures for the book? part 3

Paul tried several angles to get the drama between Bug Belly and the Heron just right. But from behind wasn't as dynamic as it should be.



But he decided that this one was just perfect.
And his editor agreed!





BUGBELLY

TOP POND'S
GREEDIEST FROG!

AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR CREATOR STUDY

10 COOL FACTS ABOUT PAUL MORTON:



1. As a child, Paul was always interested in animals. He remembers collecting ladybirds when he was at the seaside. Paul also kept a super-bouncy ball, painted green, in his pocket and pretended that it was a frog that could jump.



2. Paul always wanted to be a footballer as well as an artist.



3. If Paul could be any animal he would be, not a frog, but a bird. Probably a seagull living on a cliff next to the ocean. He loves flying and likes to have flying dreams.



From Paul's sketchbook



4. Paul doesn't have any pets, but he does have a pond at the bottom of his garden, and guess what? It is full of frogs, tadpoles and frogspawn every year.







5. Paul's favourite food is marzipan. (The yellow almond paste that you sometimes get on Christmas cakes.)



6. In his free time, Paul likes to go cycling on his mountain bike. He gets lots of good ideas when he's pedalling.



-  7. Paul always carries a sketchbook and his favourites pencils with him and draws wherever and whenever he can.
-  8. Paul likes to do magic tricks. He's even been asked to perform at birthday parties.
-  9. If Paul met Bug Belly, he would ask if they can go on the next exciting adventure together – maybe one where they end up flying in a hot air balloon!
-  10. Paul's motto is: keep drawing and keep creating great stories.

Bug Belly's motto is: A bug hunt a day, keeps the tummy rumbles away.



From Paul's sketchbook

Bug Belly tongue-twister:

Fifty freaky frogs flogged off iffy logs to fishes.

Try saying it quickly!

