

ILLUSTRATOR “CREATOR” STUDY

Some quirky facts about the creators
of the **LOTTIE LOVES NATURE** series:

♥ JAMES BROWN

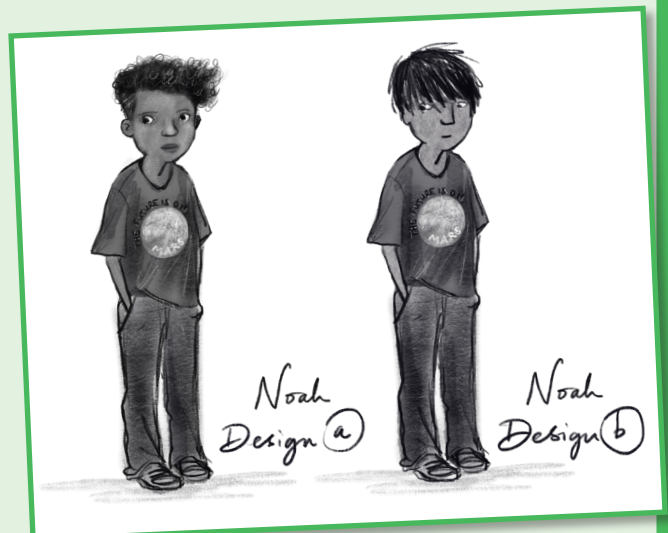


About James: James was eight when Anthony Browne came to his school and drew an amazing gorilla. He decided, then and there, to become an author/illustrator himself. He studied Creative Writing at St Andrews (where he kept writing for children and drawing all over everything). James got ‘spotted’ on Twitter and won the SCBWI *Undiscovered Voices* competition 2014. Since then, he has illustrated several series of fiction books including: *Al's Awesome Science* and *Lottie Loves Nature* (Five Quills) series by Jane Clarke, as well as *Elspeth Hart* by Sarah Forbes. He is the successful author/illustrator of the *With My Mummy* and *With My Daddy* (Macmillan) picture books. James lives near Nottingham.

Find out more here: <https://www.fivequills.co.uk/authors-and-illustrators/james-brown/>

What does James do? James is the *illustrator* of the *Lottie Loves Nature* series. He has been involved in creating and drawing the characters and the setting from the beginning.

The main character, Lottie, whose twin brother Al enjoys all aspects of science, is fascinated with nature, the environment and its different species and creatures. Originally, James had imagined Lottie, a go-getting and inquisitive character, to have curly hair, but decided on a sprig of haphazard hair to show her enthusiasm. In contrast, her friend Noah is a bit more laidback so James opted to give him floppy hair and baggier clothes, the opposite of his straight-laced golf-crazy father.



For the photorealistic nature illustrations, James researches numerous images from various angles. He carefully considers different shades and textures, and makes sure the black and white image stands out against the natural habitat in the background. James starts off with a sketch and then softens and deepens the different layers of black and white, enjoying the challenge and attention to detail.



iPad SKETCH



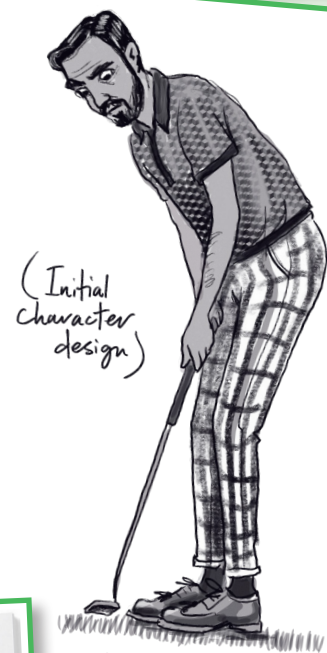
Digitally Coloured-in



Completed with different 'brushes'

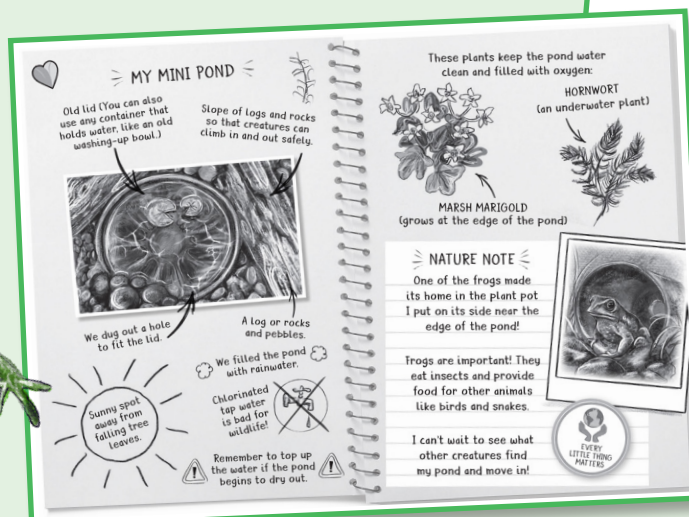
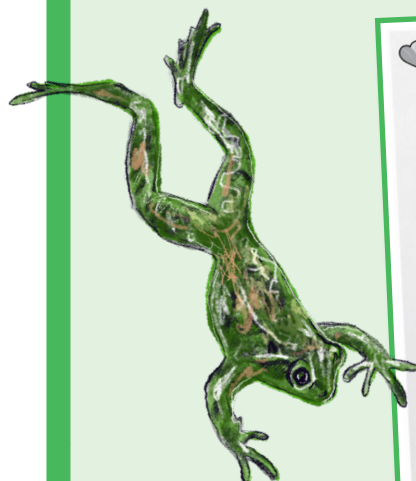
James especially loves the *Lottie Loves Nature* series because, as well as the photorealistic illustrations, there are three other artwork styles: the main story illustrations, Lottie's nature notebook doodles, and Noah's next level drawings. James gets creative free rein, which is great fun.

Although James' favourite mediums are watercolour and crayon, he does most of his artwork using an illustration app on his iPad. He doesn't work in a studio – he can work wherever he likes in the house or even outside when the weather is nice!



(Initial character design)

Mr Parfitt



COOL FACTS ABOUT JAMES BROWN:



1. As a child, James enjoyed his magnified Bug Box and spent hours in the garden searching under rocks, bushes and stones to see what he could find. (Once, he got stung by a bee because it was trying to stroke its pelt.)
2. James spent hours designing his own fairies when he was a boy. One of his favourite illustrators is still Cicely Mary Barker. Even now he likes poring over Jill Barklem's amazingly detailed Brambly Hedge series.
3. His favourite season is autumn when colours burn bright.
4. In the autumn he likes searching for mushrooms in the woods with his daughters.
5. James loves putting on his walking boots or wellies and being outside with his children and dog, Rufus.
6. A brisk walk helps with ideas; his favourite place in nature is the Peak District, especially on a clear, windy day.
7. James often takes photos of things he spots, then sketches in the car on the way home.
8. Each year, James likes counting baby frogs in the garden with his daughters.
9. James' favourite thing about looking at nature is spotting patterns in textures, like faces in the bark of a tree.
10. Birds, especially budgies and parrots, make James giggle when they sidle along a perch.

