

ILLUSTRATOR STUDY



Some quirky facts about the illustrator of

I AM
NEFERTITI

NATELLE QUEK

About Natelle: Natelle is an illustrator who lives in leafy, historic Kent with her husband, their grumpy cat Patch, and Frida, their loud-snoring dog. Before becoming a full-time illustrator, Natelle spent many years in academia and working in Science. Outside of her lab coat hours, however, Natelle was always making art. She was always learning and practising new techniques. Then, one day, she decided to hang up her lab coat and focus on her career in illustration. Natelle won the 2019 SCBWI British Isles illustrator competition, and in 2020 she was one of three winners awarded the SCBWI IPOC Women's scholarship.



Her debut as a published illustrator came in 2021, when she illustrated *THE LITTLE MERMAID*, a classic tale reimagined by author Anna Kemp.

What does Natelle do?: Natelle is the illustrator of *I AM NEFERTITI*. She worked with the wonderful team at Five Quills and with the author Annemarie to create and draw the characters and settings in the book.

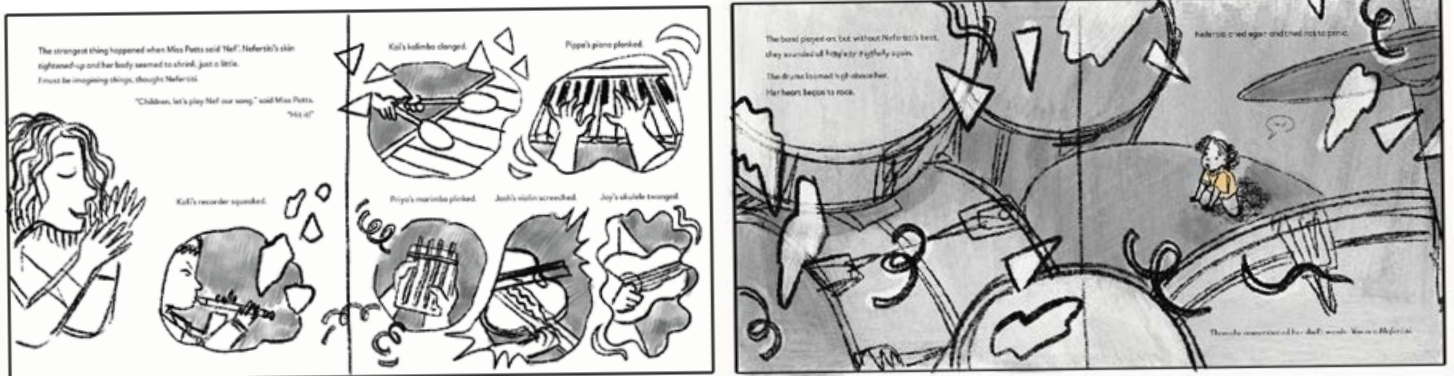
First, Natelle drew all the characters. She thought about the instruments they would have, and how they would all look playing together like a real band. She also imagined what emotions they would be feeling throughout the story.

Natelle started with Nefertiti, who is the star of the show. She is the drummer that holds the band together! Natelle gave Nefertiti bright, bold colours, stars on her leggings, and let's not forget her trusty drumsticks. The bright colours that Nefertiti wears come in handy when she shrinks to the size of your thumb, because you can still spot her even when she's so tiny!

Once Natelle had Nefertiti figured out, she drew the rest of the characters. She used photos of real instruments to make sure that every band member was playing their instrument correctly.



Next, Natelle did some tiny sketches of all the scenes in the story. They looked like this:



Natelle used her iPad Pro to do all her drawings, from the tiny sketches, to final artwork!



She experimented with different ways to create perspective. This is like how a camera zoom lens works, or as if you were looking down from high up – just like how movies show scenes from different angles.

10 COOL FACTS ABOUT NATELLE:



- 1.** As a child, Natelle collected stamps, marbles and origami stars.
- 2.** Natelle wanted to be a comic artist when she grew up.
- 3.** If Natelle were in a band, she would play the ukulele, or maybe the banjo!
- 4.** If Natelle could be any animal she would be a manatee. They are gentle, and they swim around all day.
- 5.** Natelle has always lived with animals. As a child, her family had two dogs, loads of fish, a flock of chickens, and two turtles. Now, Natelle lives with one cat and one dog.
- 6.** Natelle's favourite food is the potato. She loves hash browns, mashed potatoes, baked potatoes, curly fries – anything potato!
- 7.** In her free time, Natelle likes to go outside and discover awesome nature trails, botanical gardens, or anything green and leafy!
- 8.** Natelle draws digitally using her iPad Pro, but she also loves to play with different media when sketching for fun. Natelle's favourite media are watercolour and gouache.
- 9.** Natelle enjoys learning different creative crafts. She started teaching herself how to sew, knit, and cross-stitch. She would love to try pottery next!
- 10.** Natelle's motto is always stay curious, and enjoy learning new things.

