

## Riyaz

### A Note

Riyaz is an opportunity to understand and learn the nuances of illustration. It is an opportunity to work with the maestros of the field of illustration for one whole year. Young illustrators are able to observe closely the work and practice of a master. They are able to understand the journey of their masters. They would be able to discuss some major questions on illustrations. They would get a chance to look for answers to their own questions. You also get to reflect on the contemporary illustration scenario. This makes you aware of the kind of work happening in this field all over the world and also in our country through the works of acclaimed illustrators.

One of the specialties of this course is that it has an interesting combination of formal and non-formal education. In Riyaz, you don't just learn by reflecting on texts and illustrations. You also get an opportunity to experiment and work on ideas. You can request the maestros to demonstrate a skill or technique of illustration. This implies understanding the world of illustration through discussions on lines and colours, composition, perspective. Also, get opportunities to achieve it through consistent practice. Sketching is practiced regularly in Riyaz. In a span of one year, a Riyazi has made several sketches. It means that you can reflect on your twelve month long journey by looking at your sketches.

Besides, in Riyaz, we also work on developing an understanding of the text. We discuss the different forms of poems and stories. We organize formal and informal discussions around characters, time, space, language, expression, metaphors, image used and several other aspects of a text. A Riyazi finds himself in the dilemma of choosing an aspect of a text to illustrate. During discussions, fellow Riyazis would bring to fore several aspects of these texts. These revelations about the text would totally confuse you. At the same time, you will experience the pleasure of wandering in the narrow lanes and by-lanes of the world of words. You can hear them breath. Then, which aspect of the text would you choose to illustrate? When you choose an aspect, you are also becoming aware of the role your illustration would play for the story. In other words, what would the reader miss if he reads the story without your illustration?

You would try to make an illustration a significant part of the text.

In this journey, you will get to hear stories and poems from many famous writers and poets. You would get to know how they see the world. How do they explain their writing? and what kind of illustrations do they propose for their text?

Then comes the question of layout and design. Questions concerning the size of the illustration of a text, its placement, type of printing, and how would a two page space look when the text and illustration is put together. An illustrator's work would remain incomplete if he does not work on these questions. An exposure to basic production work, which includes printing process, is also part of the twelve-month Riyaz course.

There are two more important aspects of this course. The course makes illustrators aware of their readers. The course gives opportunities to develop an understanding about how children learn, how do they learn a language. Students would be getting an opportunity to explore different childhoods. They would be able to read, reflect and discuss some of finest texts from all over the world.

Students would also get an opportunity to work with the publishers during the course. During the course of one year, students would get an opportunity to work with at least two publishers and also identify other ways to associate and work with them. Besides, students would get to intern with a publisher for at least 15 days. These interactions would become familiar with different stages of developing a book.

During the course of one year, every student would be expected to design one picture-story. It will help them work on the complete idea of a story, editing it to make it into a picture-story. Finally, deciding which aspects would you express through words and which through illustration. What would you edit from story and from illustrations because expressing them is not required.

Along with this work, students are expected to make at least ten illustrations for different publishers. This implies that the illustrations that you have been making for your learning would also be published somewhere.

Riyazis also visit different places for sketching. They meet new people and interact with them. They write the character sketch of one of them before illustrating them.

Riyazis participate in the World Book Fair for at least four days to familiarize with the world of books arriving from all over the world.

A Riyazi gets to do all this in the course of twelve months. At the end of one year, some of their finest works are exhibited. Last year, this exhibition was held in Bhopal. Famous lyricist Irshad Kamil, poet Rajesh Joshi and many other writers and illustrators participated in this five-day long exhibition.