



Staring into Space –

3. Tell Your Stories Warli style:

a Waterstones Children's Laureate creative resource by Lauren Child and Josey Scullard, inspired by Gita Wolf, Ramesh Hengadi and Shantaram Dhadpe's book *Do!* (Tara Books)



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“The artwork in the book *Do!* is created by Gita Wolf together with two artists belonging to the Warli tribal community in Maharashtra, western India. This book demonstrates how it is possible to tell stories by using very simple repeated images. There are only two

colours in this book (brown and white) yet the effect has great impact and is very eye-catching. The drawings narrate what is going on without the need for words and because they are so stylised, repeated over and over, they create patterns and become highly

decorative adornment for the houses they are painted onto.

The tales told by these simple images can be dramatic and powerful, used as a warning, or just to illustrate small scenes from day to day life. They have a great joy and energy to them.”



Activity by Josey Scullard:

Tell your story Warli style

This project gives you an opportunity to tell the rest of the world your stories. You may have a tradition in your family that has been handed down through the generations; you might have a funny story to tell that involves you and your friends; maybe you want to tell

your story of a particularly exciting trip you recently went on. The Warli style is perfect for telling a story and including lots of information and it's very easy to copy.

Illustration © Gita Wolf, Ramesh Hengadi and Shantaram Dhadpe (Tara Books).

What you need:

Blackboard paint painted onto a wall or some board
(most ideally painted down a school corridor)

White chalk

And/or

Plain paper
preferably brown, of various sizes, or wallpaper roll (at least 3 pieces per child)

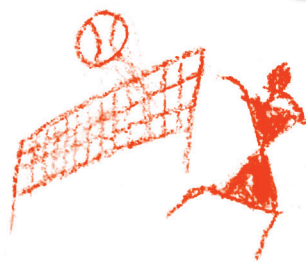
White pencils, pens or chalk
if using dark paper or **black pencils, pens or chalk** if using light paper or wallpaper

Steps to create:

1. First work out what you are going to use to draw on. Ideally paint an area of wall with blackboard paint. Not only does this look amazing, the drawings can be easily rubbed out and redrawn as you go along. In a perfect world, paint down a long corridor. Otherwise paint bits of hardboard or even thick cardboard. Or use bits of brown paper; you can stick some together or you could even use rolls of lining paper or reversed unwanted wallpaper.

2. Now you need to practise your Warli style either on paper or on the blackboard. The drawing technique is really very easy! Turn to the back of *Do!* or go to the 'more information' pages on www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/staringintospace for the step-by-step guide or look at the pictures on this page. Start with copying the stick figure and see how it can be adapted to bend; you can draw the arms and legs in different positions and give it things to hold.

Say something in your pictures about the things you like to do or places you have been.



Let your drawings say something about where you live or who you know.



3. *Do!* is a book about an Indian village; think about how to adapt this style in your environment. You may not see a monkey every day, but you may see a dog, a cat, birds, or even a pet hamster.



4. Now you can start working on drawing your story - either on the blackboard or on pieces of card or paper. If you are working individually, you can draw on your own piece of paper, maybe adding more pieces as your story grows. If you are a larger group you can use larger pieces of paper or wallpaper.

5. Try to imagine your scene as a whole and structure it by adding something like a path or buildings. You can add objects such as a post box, vehicles, bicycles in the foreground, for the people you draw to walk around. Remember this is your story and you can style it how you want.

6. You really don't have to be a master artist to use the techniques shown in this book, the simplest of shapes can tell you what the person is doing and what their role in the story is. You may have noticed someone using a walking stick, or a baby in a swing cot. Once you have mastered the basic stick figure you can make anything!



Taxi!

Warli drawings by Josey Scullard
and the children of Rosendale School, London.



Do!
by Gita Wolf, Ramesh Hengadi and
Shantaram Dhadpe (Tara Books).

Download all the creative resources plus
find more information and images
www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/staringintospace.

See Lauren's website www.staringintospace.me
for more creative inspiration