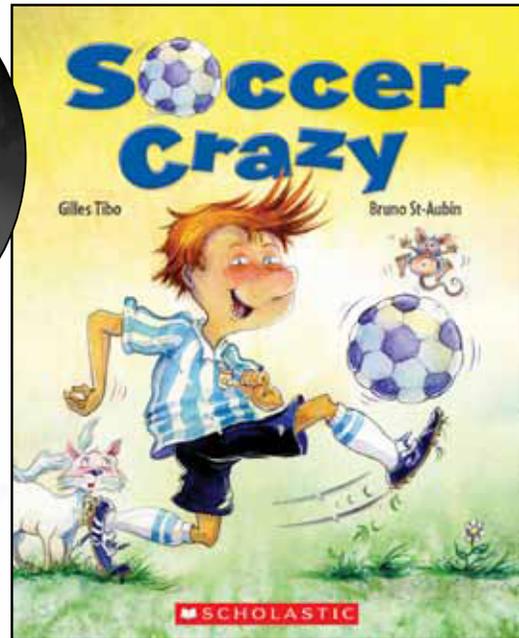


Book Fair Illustrator Spotlight On...



Bruno St-Aubin



Q What inspires you to draw?

A I really love to observe humans but, most often, I'm inspired by animals. I like to draw movements and facial expressions. My inspiration mostly comes from a combination of my own curiosity and an interest in researching the natural beauty in everything I see around me.

Q What advice do you have for young illustrators?

A I would suggest that young illustrators develop their curiosity, perseverance and patience. These are qualities that helped me a lot in my career as an illustrator. Believe in your talent and do not be shy to ask illustrators, authors or editors to help you with a specific problem, or to help you develop strategies.

Q What was your favourite book when you were growing up?

A A little duck searching for his mom on the farm... I was so little, I forgot the title. But I remember the poor little duck was particularly cute and friendly.

Q What do you like to do when you're not drawing?

A I like sports. I run, swim, play soccer and hockey, and ride my bike on long trails. When an illustration job is done, I usually take a walk around my property and observe what needs to be fixed or built. On my way back, I tend to the plants and trees, as well as my pets, both around and in the house.

Q What has been the biggest achievement of your career so far?

A I feel that being able to live out of my career as an illustrator makes me feel that I have achieved one of the biggest challenges of my life. It took me ten years to accomplish this.

Q You've written and/or illustrated over 160 picture books, chapter books and novels for children of all ages. Which of those formats do you enjoy illustrating for the most, and why?

A I really concentrated my career on children's books. That format gives me opportunities to use my imagination, and to help make the text more significant for the readers. I just love to invent images inspired by what my curiosity has led me to pick up through my life experiences, as well as through what I hear on the radio. It also gives me the liberty to create so much more, especially when I write the story myself.