

Draw Water and Other Things by Linda Nissen Samuels
with illustrations by Irene Malvezi. Sigel Press 2010.

I am not a natural artist, in fact I can barely draw at all; at least I thought I couldn't until, quite by chance, I happened upon Draw Water and Other Things. Intrigued by the title I picked it up looked through it briefly and later put pencil to paper; the results were astonishing, and though I shall never rival a serious artist I can now draw a number of things that I would have made a hash of before.

The system is effortless; you take basic, simple shapes that anyone can draw and then add to them until you have a mountain range, or a tree or a helicopter or an elephant or....the choice is huge.

More important than the response of a somewhat grizzled adult I gave a copy to my five year old grand-daughter, already well into colouring but not yet free drawing: she fell on the book with delight and has been devouring it, producing better and better pictures which she then lavishly colours.

Although this is not the sort of book I normally review on my website I cannot resist reviewing this one, in the hope that it may bring a new skill to those who, like me, had dismissed their artistic abilities, as well as being the means of giving a facility to children that will greatly enhance their childhood.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh