



# Doodle Lit: Drawing on the Classics

*Jennifer Adams , Alison Oliver (Illustrations)*

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**Doodle Lit: Drawing on the Classics** Jennifer Adams , Alison Oliver (Illustrations)

From the creators of BabyLit®, now kids can celebrate classic literature in doodle form! With Doodle Lit, artists can use their imaginations to complement favorites such as Pride and Prejudice, Romeo and Juliet, Jane Eyre, Alice in Wonderland, and many more.

Kids can follow the entertaining prompts provided and put pencils to work doodling such things as

- Mr. Darcy's dog
- Bob Cratchit's Christmas tree
- Tattoos on Queequeg's arms
- Anna Karenina's hairdo
- Dress designs for Elinor and Marianne

Sprinkled throughout are also designs with perforated edges, perfect for popping out and crafting! Illustrated in the same colorful and playful style as the acclaimed BabyLit® board book series.

## Doodle Lit: Drawing on the Classics Details

Date : Published August 1st 2014 by Gibbs Smith

ISBN : 9781423635512

Author : Jennifer Adams , Alison Oliver (Illustrations)

Format : Paperback 272 pages

Genre : Classics, Humor, Funny, Contemporary

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# From Reader Review Doodle Lit: Drawing on the Classics for online ebook

## Esme\_weatherwax says

i won this book as part of goodreads first reader. although my two kids are to young yet for this book i went though it and looked at all the activities. This book looks great it cover a wide range of the classics and each book/ author it covers has loads of activities. these activies range from cut out dolls, writting letters to various drawing and coloring activities. I would highly recommed this book to people with kids or for those young at heart. I am very temped to buy a second copy so each of my kids can have one.

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## Marci says

I received this book in a Goodreads First Reads Giveaway.

Admittedly, I haven't finished it, but it is SO much fun. It combines doodling and literature, and I'm using it to procrastinate on my thesis, which might be a horrible idea, but my thesis is literature-based, so I'm calling it research. I know it's not, but I'm slightly delusional at this point in the thesis-process. That's a legitimate step, by the way: being slightly delusional from working too hard.

Anyway, this is so much fun. I am probably going to buy some copies to use as gifts. It's great. I love it.

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## L.H. Johnson says

Doodle Lit, the work of Jennifer Adams and Alison Oliver, is a book that I specifically requested to review and my thanks to the publishers for the review copy. I specifically requested it for several reasons: the boom in colouring in books currently hitting the United Kingdom market and also the fact that it was a book that paired doodling with classics. I was, as you might say in a TL:DR sort of fashion, intrigued.

And how could I not be? I read a lot but I only recently read my first ever Jane Austen. I have a fragile relationship with canonical texts. I would desert island with books such as *The Secret Garden*, but I'd run a mile were my only option something like a Thomas Hardy. And I grant that a lot of that is due to my educational exposure to these texts, to over-studying a lot of them (I only really got back Sylvia Plath quite recently, after my A-Levels pretty much took her away from me), but it's also related to a lot of the expectations that go on around the idea of a classic text. They are texts that a lot of people revere and love. There are texts that have burnt through the years as though they were paper and each word was a flame. These texts exist and they cut through the world for a reason - but they don't do that for everyone. They can be intimidating spaces precisely because of that weight behind them, that power. Sometimes it's hard to find a fix on a text which is from a different world from you. Sometimes it's hard to find the key to the door, let alone even see the door.

And so : Doodle Lit. It's split into several sections; a brief introduction of an author with a quote about their doodling (Mark Twain : "I have never let my schooling interfere with my doodling"), followed by several pages of thematically relevant doodling. Shakespeare sees a page asking us to design our coat of arms, whilst

another asks you to draw a bunch of rose and another offers some cut out and keep mask outlines. Tolstoy's section ("Everything that I understand, I understand only because I doodle") sees us being asked to design an evening bag for Anna, and another spread asks us to give her a new hair do.

I did feel that the book slightly lost its way at points; Lewis Carroll is included twice, albeit with a different focus on his work (his nonsense poetry vs Alice-in-Wonderland) and the activities in Emily Brontë's section in particular felt a little tenuous at points (though I did rather adore the spread which declares: "Cathy is hanging up her laundry to dry on the clothesline. Doodle it")

Despite these dips, there's a lot of quality here. I can understand why books like this are problematic for some (I'm thinking of some of the media coverage of books like srsly Hamlet for example), I'd argue that there is definitely a space for books like Doodle Lit. It's been produced with a lot of quality, the paper was thick enough that the felt-tips I used didn't bleed through to the other side (I tested! For science!) and each page is printed with a perforated edge so that it tears out easily. It's a good book. It's been put together with a lot of care and consideration for the texts in question (though I can only specifically comment on the ones that I've read, do bear that in mind), and I like that. I like people that are taking risks and trying to introduce the classics to a new audience. I like that they're breaking them down for readers to find that space within them for themselves. I like that a lot. Plus, I like the first spread a lot ("What kind of dog does Mr Darcy have? Doodle it and give it a name").

(He's got a purple spotted dog called Percy.)

(Obviously.)

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## **Pam says**

I was delighted to win this book in First Reads. It's exactly the kind of creative book I love to give children to encourage free style expression and thinking. This book goes a step further by using classic literature as the basis for prompts to create, draw, and decorate: Jane Austen, William Shakespeare, Charlotte Bronte, Lewis Carroll, Bram Stoker, Herman Melville, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Emily Bronte, Mark Twain, Rudyard Kipling, Leo Tolstoy. The child doesn't need to have read these classics to enjoy the doodling. There is the added benefit of introducing good literature to the child in a creative, enjoyable way. The classics become familiar and approachable...let's read them! Each section starts with a brief intro to the author with a doodled portrait. Historical notes are sprinkled throughout, as well as doodles done by the authors themselves. The prompts are whimsical, creative, and appealing to both boys and girls. While girls may enjoy decorating Elizabeth Bennet's paper doll wardrobe more, boys will love designing tattoos on the arms and legs of a character in Moby Dick. Both will love designing gargoyles from Dracula and hats for the Mad Hatter. It's a great book and would be a perfect gift for an elementary-aged child.

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## **Brie says**

I received this book through winning it in a Goodreads First Reads contest.

It is a gorgeosu book! Set up like a workbook it based doodling excercises based off classic literature writer's and their stories; like Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte or Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare. It is fun and

I am really looking forward to doing the doodling in the book.

Definitely a fun thing for lovers of classic literature who enjoy drawing. It gives you license to doodle without feeling intimidated by it. That is always a good thing.

Definitely a 5 star book.

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## **Jill says**

There are so many adult books now for coloring and doodling, that the choices for leitmotifs have exploded. These books are said to help transform your mind and spirit by aiding relaxation and helping to relieve stress. Coloring is touted as a form of meditation. So what theme to choose?

*Doodle Lit* offers a twist on the usual coloring book by offering outlines and suggestions for what pictures to make. As the author contends:

“There is magic in doodling. when you draw or doodle without planning and thinking you let your creativity reveal itself without your brain getting in the way, so whatever you make has a story to tell you.”

But this book, a collaborative effort by the team that produces books for “BabyLit” (author Jennifer Adams along with illustrator Alison Oliver), does even more. Most double page spreads have a picture or information on one side, and space for your own doodles on the other. It provides samples of doodles by famous writers accompanied by their quotes about doodling; little historical footnotes about doodle shapes (like coats of arms or weather vanes); and spurs to creative thinking, such as: if you owned a shoe store, what would you sell? If you had a diary, what would you doodle as some of the things you saw or did? What would your garden grow?

**Evaluation:** This book has lots of fun information in addition to equipping you with templates and inspiration for fun and relaxation. For example, you can see the bizarre doodles of Lewis Carroll, a map of Huckleberry Finn’s journeys, and find out about the backgrounds of such authors as Arthur Conan Doyle, Emily Bronte, Mark Twain, and Bram Stoker. You will be encouraged to doodle shapes as diverse as gargoyles, vampires, ball gowns, and Easter eggs.

This would make a fun gift for yourself or others! Be sure to include a package of markers!

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