



As a resident of New England and an avid sailor, **Hazel Mitchell** was the ideal choice to illustrate *1, 2, 3 ... By the Sea*, written by Dianne Moritz. Her love for the Maine coastline and the time she's spent sailing on the historic schooner *Isaac H. Evans* inspired the artwork. In fact, you'll find this boat on the biking and sunset page of the book, and the little boy depicted is loosely based on the son of the boat's captain, one of the few female skippers in the Maine fleet. Hazel first drew the pictures in pencil and then colored them digitally to create the brightly energetic illustrations that transport the reader to a sunny beachside adventure.



Hazel hails from England and she spent most of her childhood either “messaging about” with horses or drawing them. After art college and a stint in the Royal Navy as a graphic artist, she's now delighted to be able to make a living as a children's book illustrator of a number of published works and a commercial artist whose paintings and photographs have been shown in group and solo exhibitions. She's even had her work presented to the British Royal Family! According to Hazel, she “always wanted to illustrate and write books and if you work hard dreams do come true.”

And she still loves horses, by the way, and happily counts two in her menagerie of pets that also includes a couple of dogs and a cat!

Hazel is a popular presenter at schools from preschool through college, and at libraries, bookstores, clubs, organizations and festivals. Her talks may be about the life of an illustrator, how a book gets from idea to the bookstore, her own books and career path; or she may provide a hands-on art workshop.