



The Letterpress Project

Author and Illustrator E-Interviews

An interview with Korky Paul

Q1. What are your earliest memories of books and reading?

Our house had lots books and my mother took us to the local library every two weeks. That's where I discovered the Hardy Boys and Just William.

Read a lot of Marvel and DC comics and Andy Capp and Giles albums

For example, did you have a favourite or inspirational book?

Struwwelpeter or Shockheaded Peter by Heinrich Hoffmann. I loved this book as a kid and still do. The illustrations, the composition and the layout appealed to me. It was so different to any other book I had seen.

Q2. What inspired you to become an author / illustrator?

My Grandmother, who was a gifted artist. She had a farm in the Kalahari and drew anything and everything on the farm. Marvellous pen and ink work which was my inspiration. We had her work on the walls in our house in Zimbabwe.

When she got to old to draw and paint she gave me all her materials – the 303 drawing pen!

Q3. For you, what makes a successful book or illustration?

There are three rules and nobody knows what they are.

Q4. Do you have a specific audience in mind when you write your books / plan your illustrations?

Just children and I keep in mind the assorted adults who hopefully will be reading my books to their offspring.

Q5. What future do you think the physical book has?

An excellent future.

For example, do you think the electronic book will replace the physical book?

No.

Q6. Are you a book collector?

I have a large collection of children's picture books, always try and buy from fellow authors/illustrators when at festival together – and get 'em to sign 'em!

Is First edition of there a special book you'd love to own?

Struwwelpeter in German and English.