



The Letterpress Project

Q1. What are your earliest memories of books and reading? For example, did you have a favourite or inspirational book?

Reading was always a wonderful escape for me. My earliest memories are of the Beatrix Potter books, my favourite being Mrs Tiggly Winkle. I loved the illustrations as much as the magic of animals having real lives. When I was about 14, I read Wuthering Heights and it was the first book that made me so emotional that I cried.

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

From a very young age, I have written stories. Books have always been at the centre of my life and whilst writing a story can be the most difficult thing to do, there is nothing like the feeling when characters, plot, sub-plots connect and your draft finally comes together.

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

Stories that make you emotional. Stories that leave you wanting more. Stories that inspire. Stories that scare you! Books are different for everyone but I've rarely read a book that I have totally disliked.

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

I teach creative writing to children aged 8 to 11 and my published books are aimed at this age group. I do however write short stories for adults, so it is often not the audience that I think about first but what I am feeling or the ideas I have when I sit down to write a story.

Q5. What future do you think the physical book has? For example, do you think the electronic book will replace the physical book?

Never! Whilst I like the immediacy of the e-book (no more waiting for the post), in my opinion, there is nothing that can replace the excitement of going into a book shop or library and coming out with a book (or in my case, several books) in your hand.

Q6. Are you a book collector? Is there a special book you'd love to own?

I'm not a collector but my family might tell you something different. I have hundreds of books; some I pass on but some books I just can't let go of. If I were to own a first edition it would have to be either Mrs Tiggy Winkle or Wuthering Heights – or both might be nice!