



The Letterpress Project

Author and Illustrator E-Interviews

An Interview With Pippa Goodhart

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

I was lucky enough to have parents who read to me. My mother read all sorts of books, but from my father it was always Beatrix Potter, and usually Mrs Tigglywinkle. I was slow at learning to read, but finally got launched into reading thanks to Laura Ingalls Wilder's stories. I loved the fact that her stories of pioneer life in America were true, full of practical details, and accompanied by beautiful illustrations. I felt at Laura as if I had a very personal relationship with Laura.

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

It wasn't something I'd ever thought I could do, but work in a children's bookshop gave me the chance to meet authors and realise that most of them were very ordinary people, not so different from me. It was a competition for writing a children's novel that got me going, but only then because my husband nagged me to have a go at it!

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

One that makes you FEEL something strongly, whether its laughter or tears, excitement or wonder.

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

I suppose that in a way I'm always writing for the child I used to be.

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

I think that we're now far enough into having ebook technology to know the answer to that. Ebooks can be very useful for carrying reading material around efficiently, but sales of ebooks have fallen as the novelty wears off, and paper books sales are stronger than ever.

There's something special about turning the pages of an actual book that has more appeal. They are certainly more beautiful.

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

I am a collector in the sense of having lots of books, and I do have some special ones. I love finding a first edition of a favourite book in a jumble sale, but don't want to pay silly amounts to buy one. And I don't want books that are deemed too precious to actually handle and read.