



**The Letterpress Project**

**Author and Illustrator E-Interviews**

# **An Interview With Cherry Cobb**

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

I remember my mum reading to me at bedtime, from a very young age. I think this inspired my love of reading, which I hope I have passed on to my children. My favourite Author was Enid Blyton, and one of my favourite stories was about a girl who named her dolls after the vowels to help her remember them. I also loved Charlotte's Web by E.B. White. In fact when I start to think about it I had and still have too many favourites to list.

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

From a very young age I liked to rhyme, I made little poetry books of the rhymes that I made up. As I grew older my love of words grew with me and I started to write short stories. Again I think being a keen reader played a huge part in that process.

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

I love books that transport me to another world or place, books that have great characters that make you want to shout out – 'He's behind you!'

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

I write for middle grade, so I am generally focussing on kids from about seven up, I try to remember how I felt about books at that age and keep in mind that kids today have so much technology to compete with their attention, so the book needs to reflect that in some way.

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

I don't think the electronic book will ever replace the physical book, I notice my local bookstore always has people in it. There is something magical about a physical book, the cover, the feel and of course the smell. I think you engage more with a physical book than an electronic version. And of course you can then have lots of lovely bookmarks!

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

I do collect books; I have quite a few of the early Ladybird books. I also collect some of the original Enid Blyton's and some of the classics. I recently bought a lovely old hardback copy of A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett. I love old books that have beautiful colour illustrations inside. I would love to own a first edition of Winnie-the-Pooh by A. A. Milne.