



## The Letterpress Project

### Author and Illustrator E-Interviews

# An Interview With Winifred Alexander

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

My earliest memory of books and reading, was when I realised that I had a passion for reading illustrated books, this was in infant school. At this stage I loved story time at school, when myself and all my classmates would sit on the mat, anxiously waiting for our teacher to begin reading the story. I also brought home from school my first inspirational book, which I still remember until this day. It was a book called 'But Wednesday Cried ' by Yvonne Mitchell. This book was a short and sweet adventure about 7 cat siblings who were named after each day of the week.

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

My farfetched imagination, constantly bombarding my mind with creative stories, is what inspired me to put pen to paper and start writing. I've been writing for the last 22 years.

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

For me, my idea of a successful book is a story that is written with passion, from the heart and carries a strong message to the reader, leaving a long-lasting impression on the reader.

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

No I don't really have a specific audience in mind, as my writing is very diverse and covers many different subjects, I feel what I write can appeal to all kinds of people.

**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 the physical format of the book, will be around for many, many years to come, simply because people in general prefer to hold on to something tangible to read and curling up with a mug of tea and a warm blanket on a rainy day, as well as reading bedtime stories to our young ones, has now become a well loved ritual that will last for generations to come.

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

No, I actually don't collect books at all. I'm more of a writer nowadays than a reader.