



The Letterpress Project

An Interview With Adam Clarke

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

I read a lot of comic books and choose-your-own-adventure books but I always found reading books really difficult. It wasn't until I was 11 years old that my headteacher suggested I read *The Hobbit* that I discovered a book, and genre, that held me captivated.

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

I've always loved visual narratives - whether in film, comic books, video games, or illustrations. That is where I've found so much inspiration and I love to tell stories across different platforms.

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

I like powerful images that are arresting to the eye and the senses and at the same time, move the story forward or offer a new narrative to explore.

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

I generally have two audiences in mind - a child audience and an adult audience. I always love reading with my own son and I want my work to encourage adults and children to explore the stories together.

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

The physical book has its own space. It is like a room that you visit. It starts to develop its own character as it gathers its own stories. We remember a physical book, how it feels, where we first held it, the marks and creases of its paper. A non-physical book can lose that, though we may still remember where we first experienced it.

Q6. Are you a book collector?

I have a good collection of comics and graphic novels but my wife is a poet and our son loves reading so there are literally hundreds of books in our house - as the quote goes (slightly modified) "this house isn't big enough for another book collector"!

Q7. Is there a special book you'd love to own?

A first edition of A A Milne's "Winnie the Pooh" because it is beautifully illustrated throughout and is timeless.