



The Letterpress Project

# An Interview With Atinuke

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

As a child I read as much as I could. It was very rare for me to get new books so I would reread, and reread and reread the ones I loved. Milly Molly Mandy by Joyce Lankester Brisley was a favourite!

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

When I got tired of rereading I used to write the stories that I wished I was reading. And that was when I realised that I loved writing as much as I loved reading!

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

My favourite books are ones where the words are a joy to read, where I care about the people in the book, and where there is something about the story that touches my heart.

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

I only write books for children (and those who are children at heart) so they are always in my mind when I am writing.

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

The world is always changing. My great-grandmother was scared of the radio. She thought it would make our brains lazy and change the world for the worse. And once upon a time people were scared of books because they thought the same thing. I have no idea how the world is going to change. All I know is that it will change. But we will always have stories. Humans can't live without stories.

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

I am a book collector. I love looking at them, touching them, reading them, being surrounded by them. And I am happy with them being battered and old and loved. I would love to own a copy of an illustrated manuscript one day - from the days when books were written out by hand and letters made as beautiful as pictures - especially one from the library in Timbuktu.