



The Letterpress Project

Author and Illustrator E-Interviews

An Interview With Lou Treleaven

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

I started reading at home and I remember racing through all the ladybird Peter and Jane books before I went to school. It was very frustrating having to start again! I read and reread many favourite books just as I do now, but my ultimate reread was probably Tom Brown's schooldays. It just captivated me, I'm still not sure why!

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

It's often said that turning your hobby into your job makes for a happy life, and that's what's happened to me. But I think I love writing because to me it's the ultimate creative act. After all, what is a story but some small black marks on a page? And yet those marks can create a whole universe.

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

Something that is genuine and comes from the heart but also taps into the author or illustrator's unique way of seeing the world.

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

Yes, as I do try to target the age group I'm writing for. Beyond that I'm just searching for likeminded readers who hopefully share my strange sense of humour!

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

No but I think they will complement each other. I prefer ebooks myself as they are easier to cart around and you can eat while you read, but I'll happily pick up a physical book. Heavily illustrated books work much better on paper, so the physical picture book is here to stay I'm sure. Paper books will become more of an art form in the future and be treasured as special possessions.

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

Over the last few years I've managed to track down three books from childhood that I just couldn't remember the names of. They turned out to be Knock Three Times by Marion St John Webb, Sideways On Street by Mary Wroe and The Time of the Ghost by Diana Wynne Jones. Finding them on eBay and owning them again was magical.