



The Letterpress Project

An interview with Lucas Marques Lima

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

I love the Roald Dahl compilation. When I started school, my mother bought it for me. For two years straight, I went dressed to school on World's books day as Mr Fox. The other one is Marcus Rashford, You are a Champion. Mr Fox reminds me of my mom. She will do anything for me, guide me protect me and work hard to feed me and have a nice home. Marcus Rashford, has taught me that I can be whatever I want if I work hard, and to always remain kind to myself and others. And to appreciate every small wins I might have now or growing up, and not just wait for the big ones.

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

My mother. She wrote a book, Healing Letters. During lockdown I used to see her there editing her book and talking over Zoom to her (our) publisher Marcia M. Spence (Marcia M. Publishing House), and I remember she talking about what she wanted to achieve with the book. She wanted to help other people with her book by telling her story. So, one day I asked her if we could do a book together. She said at the moment she already had loads to do, but she could guide and help me if I really wanted to write. So, I did, I wrote it in a month or two. I didn't have the intention to publish it, as I didn't think it was good at all. But my mother loved it and told Marcia. Our publisher at the time had created a program in her company and wanted to sponsor young writers. I was one of the lucky ones.

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

I like funny books, with great stories that makes me want do something similar, and makes my mind fly far away.

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

I was only 8 when I wrote the book. But it was only published last year when I was 10 years old. So, I guess the book is for children for the age of 4 – 11. It is for children that don't know how to talk about their emotions, that feel afraid to talk with their parents. It is to tell them that it is ok to be afraid or scared, but to trust their parents and tell them whatever they are feeling. Our parents can't help us if we don't talk to them. My mom and Marcia, say that the book is also good for parents to read alone, or with their children, and then discuss what they have just read.

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

Although I like to be online on my gadgets a lot, I think that real books are better than online books. So, I would prefer that option to continue for the future.

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

I am not. Most books that were offered to me, after I read them I gift them to charity. The only one I still have is the 'Fantastic Mr Fox' and 'Marcus Rashford, You are a Champion'. I read them already, but sometimes I go back to them. Especially when my mother prohibits me to go to my gadgets, due to misbehaving or not doing something I was supposed to do.