



The Letterpress Project

Author and Illustrator E-Interviews

AN INTERVIEW WITH TIM BOWLER

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

I remember my mother reading aloud to me when I was very small. It instilled in me a love of reading and led me to authors like Enid Blyton and - especially - Arthur Ransome. He was my most powerful reading influence as a boy and *Swallows and Amazons* had a profound effect on me when I first read it at the age of ten.

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

Reading. It was reading stories that made me want to write. I wrote my first story at the age of five and I haven't stopped since.

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

If a book makes me want to miss sleep, miss meals, miss life itself for the reading of it, then it's a successful book.

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

I'm conscious of audience with younger readers. Less so with teenagers and young adults because I feel they can handle anything I could throw at them.

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 a powerful future. I see no signs of physical books losing their appeal and that includes among the young. I also see a great future for electronic books. I love my Kindle and I love my physical books.

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

I'm not a great collector of books but I'm proud of my hardback Arthur Ransomes from childhood, my complete Samuel Pepys, my Folios of Patrick O'Brian. I'd love a first edition of Treasure Island. One of my favourite books. But I suspect that would be somewhat expensive!