



The Letterpress Project

An Interview With Tom Palmer

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

I am afraid my earliest memories of books are quite negative. I was intimidated by books. But I did like football reports in newspapers and magazines and comics and they built my confidence up so that I could tackle books.

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

Reading other authors. Then my wife suggesting that I work part time for a whole year so that I could write my first book. (She paid the bills.) That belief and time gave me massive inspiration.

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

One that is put into the hands of the right reader. Even the best books turn some people off, so matching reading with reading material is the recipe for success.

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

I suppose children aged 7-13, roughly. But anyone over 7 really.

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

So long as books can be created using sustainable sources, the physical book will live forever.

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

I have books, but don't call myself a collector. But maybe I am. I would like to own a first edition of a book published under the name Ellis Bell in 1847. Called Wuthering Heights.