

A Q&A with Adam Frost

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What are your 5 favourite books, and why? (not necessarily children's books)

Fantastic Mr Fox, Great Expectations, Spike Milligan's Silly Verse for Kids, the Professor Branestawm stories by Norman Hunter, and Father Christmas by Raymond Briggs.

Who are your 5 favourite authors/illustrators, and why? (not necessarily children's authors/illustrators)

Charles Dickens, Roald Dahl, Evelyn Waugh, Franz Kafka and Raymond Briggs. All very good at black comedy – but above all, brilliant storytellers.

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl

Who is your favourite hero in a book?

Fantastic Mr Fox

Who is your favourite villain in a book?

Boggis, Bunce and Bean – joint first

If you could be a character from a book who would you be?

Batman or Superman – both have their pluses and minuses

If you could recommend just one book for everyone to read what would it be?

Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl

What book do you wish you had written?

Same again! Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl

Who or what was your biggest influence in deciding to become a writer?

Norman Hunter – author of Professor Branestawm books

What inspired you to write your latest book?

Working on data visualisation at the Guardian and realising that children would benefit from a highly visual factbook too!

What's the best thing you've ever written?

Always the latest book – in this case, The Awesome Book of Awesomeness!

When did you start writing?

Can't remember – I started writing stories when I was very young! But seriously – as an adult – when I was about 25.

If someone wanted to be a writer what would be your number one tip for them?

Don't give up.

Is there any particular routine involved in your writing process (favourite pen, lucky charm, special jumper)?

Not really, I'm afraid.

Do you have any abandoned stories in your 'bottom drawer' that you would like to revisit?

Don't think so. They're usually abandoned for a reason