



WITH ANDY STANTON



Q. What book did you love as a child and why?

A. *The Eighteenth Emergency* by Betsy Byars, because it's funny and tender and sad all at once. And because the main character, Mouse, is an underdog and I always root for the little guy. I also loved *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl, Enid Blyton's *Mystery* series and many more I can't remember just at the moment.

Q. Who are your current favourite children's authors/illustrators and why?

A. Michael Rosen because his words are warm and generous. Quentin Blake because he's Quentin Blake. My own illustrator, David Tazzyman, because he's a downright genius. And Andy Mulligan, because his book *Ribblestrop* is outrageously hilarious and hilariously outrageous. And finally, who could forget Leonard P. Woodgrove? Well, everyone, actually, as I just made him up.

Q. What tips would you give to encourage children to read?

A. Read what you want! If you like the look of something, give it a try. It doesn't matter if you're a boy and you want to read a 'girl's book'. It doesn't matter if you're a girl and you fancy reading a 'boy's book'. Hop from one book to the next like stepping stones. Explore the world of books and you will never have another dull moment! Read, read, READ!

Q. What do you enjoy best about being an author?

A. It's a real buzz to create characters that my readers really believe in and care about. Also, a lot of parents tell me that the *Mr Gum* books were what got their children reading to begin with - that makes me feel very privileged. Plus I've been lucky enough to meet lots of other amazing children's authors.

Q. Tell us something about yourself that you think might surprise people.

A. I'm writing these answers at 4.33 in the morning as I can't sleep.

FICTION BY

Andy Stanton

Mad, Bad and Dangerously Funny



9781406223102

If you are looking for a book for a reluctant reader, then take a look at these quirky, weird and wacky books from Andy Stanton.

They are full of wildly intriguing characters: there's Mr Gum himself, a nasty man who hates children, corn on the cob and fun; a little girl named Polly whose heart is strong and true; a gingerbread man with electric muscles; and a dodgy butcher called Billy William the Third. The *Mr Gum* books are laugh out loud funny and make bedtime reading a really fun and positive experience for both children and adults.

7+ / £5.99



Blue Peter
Winner:
Best Book with Pictures

'The Mr Gum books should be compulsory consumption for every primary school child' Junior Education

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children's
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