

Q&A

WITH JAN FEARNLEY



Q. What was your favourite book as a child?

A. *Busy, Busy World* by Richard Scarry. I love the way every spread featured a new adventure, in a different part of the world. It introduced me to places I'd never heard about, but longed to visit. I also love animals and his books are full of weird and wonderful creatures, as well as unfamiliar architecture, and strange machines – the world he created enchanted me.

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

A. I like illustrators who 'draw'. I know that sounds odd but what I mean by that are the illustrators who draw quirky characters with such skill that you can tell by the expression on their faces what they're thinking: Axel Scheffler, Rebecca Elgar, Helen Oxenbury, Posy Simmonds.

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

A. Where to start?!

Firstly it's crucial that children around you know that you love to read. Children naturally want to emulate the significant grown-ups in their lives, so how they see you behaving towards literature is very important. If children see how much you enjoy and value reading in all its forms – be it newspapers, magazines, comics – this behaviour will rub off on them.

Don't force it. Reading should never be a chore.

Have variety in what you read together and talk about what's happening to the characters in a story, how they might be feeling and what is happening in the illustrations. This builds comprehension skills, without anybody even realising it.

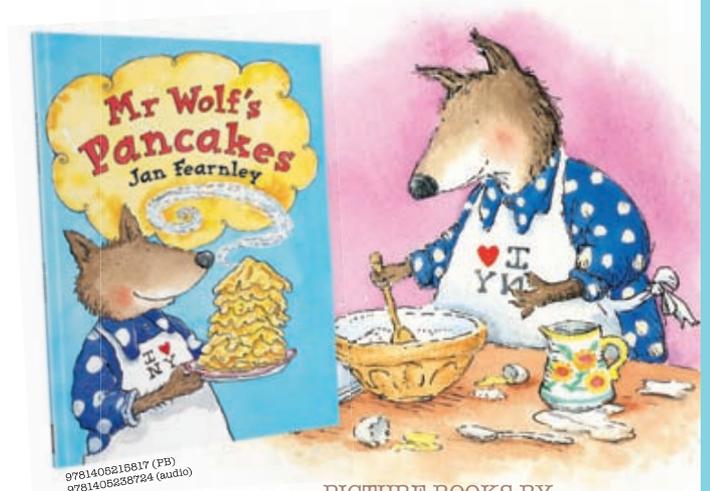
Most importantly, enjoy reading together. Read with passion and enjoyment.

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

A. Losing myself in other worlds.

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

A. I could tell you plenty of things that would amaze and surprise you, but for now all I will say is this: last year, the best thing that happened to me was that a rhinoceros let me tickle him behind his ear.



9781406218617 (PB)
9781406238724 (audio)

PICTURE BOOKS BY

JAN FEARNLEY

If you haven't met Mr Wolf yet you are in for a treat, thanks to Jan Fearnley's witty and charming style.

These books are perfect if your children like to read the same book over and over again, as you will both discover something new every time you revisit Jan's amazingly detailed drawings. The *Mr Wolf* books turn traditional fairy tales on their head, with Mr Wolf falling victim to some pretty horrid neighbours (including a very rude Little Red Riding Hood and Three Little Pigs).

2+ / £5.99

Also available on audio / £7.99
Read by Nigel Planer

www.hungry-wolf.com



9781406283802 / £5.99