

THE REBEL READING SOCIETY



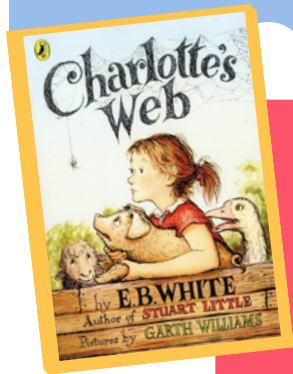
Author Spotlight

Nat Harrison



When did you decide that you wanted to become an author?

I began writing stories as soon as I could hold a pencil, but I never thought I could be a real life author. We didn't have any author visits when I was at school so to me authors were like mythical magical creatures! It wasn't until I was in my forties that I decided to try and become an author, and I'm so glad I did!



Did you read lots as a child - if you did, where did you mainly read? If you didn't, what was the reason?

I had really bad asthma and eczema as a kid, so my parents read stories to me to keep my spirits up. When I could read by myself, I gobbled up books - at home, on holiday, in the hospital. I'm so grateful they encouraged me to read because there's nothing better than losing yourself in a book, especially if you're having a tough time.

What was your favourite book as a child and why?

One? How about three! I adored Charlotte's Web by E.B. White, I still cry every time. I read Shadow the Sheepdog by Enid Blyton until it fell apart! And the Worst Witch by Jill Murphy, I dip back in and have fun with Mildred Hubble to this day.

How does it feel to see your books in shops and being sold?

It feels like your best birthday, Christmas, and winning an epic prize all rolled into one. Seeing my story in bookshops all around the world is the most incredible feeling - a total dream come true!

What is the best part about being an author?

Seeing my book being enjoyed by all different kinds of readers. I've heard from people from so many countries and of all ages; my youngest reader just turned six and my oldest is 102 years old! I've heard from avid readers as well as children and adults who struggle to read for pleasure and who've loved the story. There is no better feeling than that!



What are the 'not so fun bits' in being an author?

When I'm working on a story, everything sounds so wonderful in my head but often comes out all wrong on the page. The only way I'm able to make the story better is by chipping away at it until finally, it clicks into place. Luckily, I can be very stubborn so that helps! Sometimes it is no fun at all, but the chapters that are hardest to write usually turn out to be the best.



Why do you think it is important for children to read?

Reading is a special kind of magic. When you open a book, you step through a doorway into a completely new world. You can travel to another place and time, walk in someone else's shoes, have incredible adventures, and learn about things you've never imagined. Wherever you want to go, whatever you want to experience, there's a book to take you there.



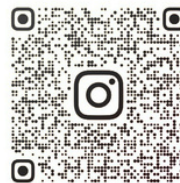
What is the inspiration for your books and writing?

I love adventure so most of my inspiration comes from reading about epic adventures. I read a lot of books from all different genres to keep my imagination fired up and ready to go! Most of my ideas come when I'm walking my dog or when I'm somewhere near water, usually in the shower!

Who gives you feedback on your drafts and how do you act on the feedback?

I have a tight knit crew who get a sneak peek including my brilliant editor, a fantastic workshop group, my parents, and my husband. I also read aloud to my dog Shadow because that's the best way to tell if the words work. She doesn't give much feedback but is a great listener!

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More Info



Finally, if you could read for an hour, on your own, anywhere in the world - where would it be?

I'm lucky enough to have visited every continent except Antarctica so I have A LOT of favourite places. I would say anywhere with warm sun, soft sand, and miles of blue ocean.