



### Thiago de Moraes

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

I loved writing and drawing stories as a kid, and spent a lot of my time making my own books and comics. Despite that, it took me a while to understand that being a writer and illustrator was something I could do as a job. I believe you don't need to be published to be a writer or an illustrator. If you write stories, you're a writer.



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

I did. I spent all my time reading, and still do. I read comics, all sorts of books for children and all sorts of books that were not meant for children. I was lucky to live in a house with lots and lots of books, but also went to my local library all the time.



#### What was your favourite book as a child and why?

There are waaaay too many to mention, but I'll try to name a few. I grew up in Brazil and my mother was French, so I read lots of books from both cultures growing up. From France, I loved the *Little Nicholas* books and *Asterix*. From Brazil, I loved books about myths and legends from indigenous South American peoples and the African diaspora; my favourite was Pierre Verger's *African Legends of the Orishas*. I still love and read all these books quite often.

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

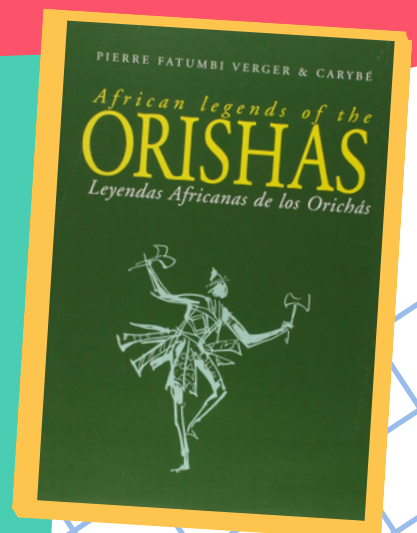
Amazing! It feels great to see your book alongside other books that you admire and enjoy, but the best feeling is meeting people who have read my stories.

#### What is the best part about being an author?

The best part is knowing that something you have made can be a small part of people's lives, that kids and parents might share a nice moment around a story you have created. I love the writing and drawing, too (which is lucky, the opposite would make this a hard job), and can do either for a very long time without getting bored.

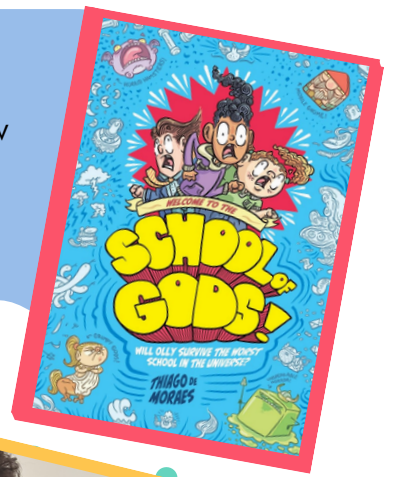
#### What are the 'not so fun bits' in being an author?

It can be quite lonely. I spend most days by myself, and often don't speak to anyone until my family comes home in the evenings. It's not a big problem, though, as I'm usually so involved with what I'm doing that the day flies by.



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

I think it's important for everyone to read, because reading is a window into other ways of thinking and being. It's like taking a holiday in someone else's life. It makes us more kind, more open, more curious. Beyond that, and more importantly, it is super fun!



## What is the inspiration for your books and writing?

As well as the books I mentioned earlier, I love Terry Pratchett and P. G. Wodehouse. I also spend a lot of time reading really long academic books on subjects like the hypothetical social structure of Neanderthal societies, or the domestication of the horse, and all that stuff is somewhere in my writing (some of it is buried very deep, but it's there). My kids are another huge source of inspiration, they're funny and (a bit too) honest with my work.



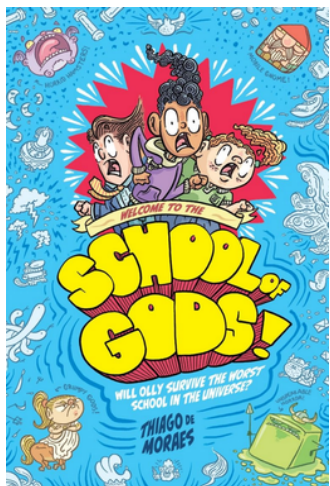
## Who gives you feedback on your drafts and how do you act on the feedback?

Usually it'll be an editor. I've been extremely lucky to work with brilliant (and very patient) editors since I started making books. I love feedback. I think it's invaluable to have a different perspective on a text that has only existed inside my head for ages. There are hundreds of ways of making a text or an illustration work and, although I have strong convictions on how I like to do things, I'm also very open to ways to improve my work.

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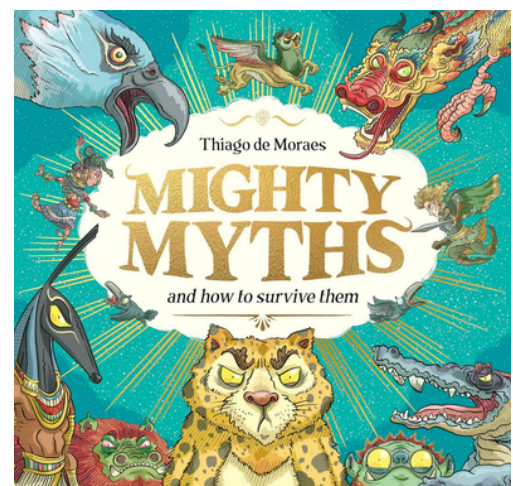
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## Finally, if you could read for an hour, on your own, anywhere in the world - where would it be?

I love being outdoors, especially at the top of a good mountain. If I could read anywhere, I'd go to a cold, sunny slope in Snowdonia or the Alps, with a bacon sandwich, a bag of crisps and a hot chocolate.