

What was it about this work by Sir Quentin Blake that inspired you to write your poem?

I really liked how the young child was holding up a piece of paper that could have, you can't tell in the drawing, it could have been anything, but with the connection with art and the Museum and the story with Coram and the Hospital, I just thought that would be ideal, so I could interpret it the way I want and give a message with the art the child was drawing.

What is your favourite childhood book?

I don't actually remember the name of my favourite childhood book but it was a book by A.A. Milne which had a collection of poems in, it had some Winnie-the-Pooh, Christopher Robin poems in, and it was a lot of themes about central London and about people that were down on the look. Some down and out homeless men and people wearing newspaper hats and I just, yeah, I think that led me to be inspired to write my book in a way.

If you could pick one other venue to display your work at, where would it be?

I'm not sure about an exact place but I'd really like something near Saint Martin's in the Fields because of my own personal history and their roots with helping the homeless in central England.

Does writing energize or exhaust you?

It depends what I'm writing, if I'm writing something that's going to give me a positive message I find that it really energises me, if I'm writing something that's a little bit more heavy maybe I will need a bit of recovery after that.

What is your writing process like?

I have to spend enough time thinking about it and totally immersing myself into to what I'm going to write before I do it and then I find that that helps me just getting a roll and flow basically.

What advice for do you have for writers starting out in the industry?

Just keep writing and write about things that you really enjoy about and then it won't seem so difficult and you'll find that you just really, really enjoy it and you can get passionate with it. Don't give up and get your writing out to people that you think, or you know, will enjoy it and will benefit from it because that creates a lot more opportunities and opens a lot of doors for you, in the sense that the right people can value your work. I think half of the process is thinking about it and half is writing about it, so it can range from hours to days to a week or so.

You play the guitar, which guitarist would you most like to be, Jimi Hendrix or Bob Dylan or another?

Well I used to have an obsession with John Lennon when I was a child so it'd have to be John Lennon or Bob Marley.