

Tuesday 4th May 2021

Who is Mac Barnett?

Mac Barnett is the bestselling author of more than 20 books for children, including *Extra Yarn* and *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*, both illustrated by Jon Klassen, and both winners of a Caldecott Honor and the E.B. White Read-Aloud Award. His picture books, *Leo: A Ghost Story* and *The Skunk*, were recognised as *The New York Times* Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2015.

Barnett loves his work because, he says, kids are "the sincerest appreciators of stories, a uniquely receptive and honest audience."

Barnett grew up in California, and graduated from Pomona College where he studied literature. He was always "obsessed" with books and knew he wanted to be a writer, but didn't figure out what kind until he worked at a kids' camp in Berkeley one summer. Barnett would make up stories for the kids and gained a reputation as the man with the fantastical tales.

After college, Barnett worked at 826 Valencia, a non-profit tutoring centre that helps kids with their writing and homework.

Barnett says, "A picture book is words and pictures working together to tell a story. A picture book is a really exciting form. A peculiar art form. The illustrator and the author work together. Sometimes the illustrator is more important than the author, the illustrator brings the words to life."

During Lockdown Mac Barnett read stories to children on line on Instagram.



Retrieval:

- What did Mac Barnett study at Pomona college?
- Where did Barnett figure out what kind of writer he wanted to be and why?

Vocabulary:

- Barnett describes kids to be, "the sincerest appreciators of stories". Explain what he means by 'appreciators'.

Inference:

- When creating a picture book, Mac Barnett thinks the writer is more important than the illustrator. Agree or disagree? Explain.

appreciate



To be grateful or
thankful.

