

Autobiographical information from Tony Bradman's website

I was born (in 1954!) and brought up in London and still live there. I discovered books and stories when I was at primary school, and soon became the kind of person who reads all the time!

I dimly remember liking the Thomas the Tank Engine books when I was very young, but it was J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* that really got me hooked. A great teacher called Mr Smith read it to my class, and it wasn't long before I sought out *The Lord of the Rings*. I borrowed the trilogy from the library, a place I spent many happy hours in.

I found my way to the historical fiction of Rosemary Sutcliff, and she's still one of my favourite writers - I regularly re-read *The Eagle of the Ninth*, *Warrior* *Scarlet*.

I was a fan of the Viking stories of Henry Treece, the science fiction of HG Wells, John Wyndham, Isaac Asimov, and was soon reading voraciously - literary fiction, poetry, biography, history.

I loved words and language, but the key thing for me then - as it is now - was story. I love the feeling of being drawn into a story, the delicious sense of tension that comes from wanting to know what is going to happen next and almost being afraid to find out. That happens when you read the best stories - and as I found out, it can happen when you write a story of your own, too.

Retrieval

- 1) Which book really encouraged Tony to read ?
- 2) What kind of books does Rosemary Sutcliff write ?
- 3) Describe how Tony feels when he reads a good story.

Words in context

- 4) Find and copy a word which means 'attempt to find something'.
- 5) Find and copy a word which means 'a group of three related things'.