

Autobiographical information from Tony Bradman's website

By the time I hit my teens I'd pretty much decided I wanted to be a writer. I went to university (Queens' College, Cambridge) where I spent a lot of time avoiding lectures. I did a lot of reading and going to the cinema. I became a journalist after I left, and worked in the music press for a while. But I also got married and became a dad - and that's when I discovered children's books.

I started buying books to read to my oldest daughter, and then I took a job on a magazine called Parents, which ran features about family life and kids. Within a few months I was writing a regular column of children's book reviews, and taking the books home.

This was the early 1980s, the beginning of the new Golden Age of Children's Books. I remember taking home Janet and Allan Ahlberg's Peepo! , The Baby's Catalogue, Where's Spot? and Alfie Gets in First.

I read to all three of my children every night for years - and that includes stints of reading The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings (they asked me to stop eventually).

By the mid-1980s I was writing my own stories and things went well. I wrote a couple of collections of poetry that were published by Puffin, lots of picture books, and the Dilly the Dinosaur stories which were very successful.

I've also reviewed for the national press, appeared at major literary festivals and done hundreds of school visits, talked about children's books on the radio and TV, and been active in writers' organisations. But it all comes down to one thing - a love of reading. Somehow I don't think that's ever going to change...

Retrieval

- 1) What did he spend a lot of time doing at University ?
- 2) What does Tony call the early 1980s in relation to books ?

Inference

- 3) Why do you think Tony's children asked him to stop reading the Hobbit and Lord of the Rings ?
- 4) How do you think Tony would sum up his career so far ?