

Tuesday 16th November 2021

LO: Shared reading Anthony Browne part 1.

"I was born in Sheffield and moved to a pub near Bradford when I was one. As I got older I apparently used to stand on a table in the bar and tell stories to customers about a character called Big Dumb Tackle (whoever he was). I spent much of my childhood playing sport, fighting and drawing with my older brother.

I went to a grammar school in Cleckheaton, then studied graphic design at art college in Leeds. My father died suddenly and horrifically in front of me while I was there and this had a huge effect on me. I went through a rather dark period which didn't sit very happily with the world of graphic design. After leaving college I heard about a job as a medical artist and thought that it sounded interesting - it was. I worked at Manchester Royal Infirmary for 3 years painting delicate watercolours of grotesque operations. It taught me a lot more about drawing than I ever learned at art college, and I believe it taught me how to tell stories in pictures. I thought that it was probably time to move on when strange little figures started appearing in these paintings, and so I began a career designing greetings cards. I continued to do this for many years working for the Gordon Fraser Gallery.

Gordon Fraser became a close friend and taught me a lot about card design which was to prove very useful when I came to do children's books. I experimented with many styles and many subjects from snowmen to dogs with big eyes to gorillas. I sent some of my designs to various children's book publishers and it was through one of these that I met Julia MacRae who was to become my editor for the next 20 years. She taught me much of what I know about writing and illustrating children's books.

Questions

- 1) What did Anthony Browne spend much of his childhood doing?
- 2) Where did Anthony Browne study graphic design?
- 3) What did Anthony Browne think sounded interesting?

- 4) Summarise the main events of Anthony Browne's life.
- 5) Predict what would happen next in Anthony Browne's life.

Thursday 18th November 2021

LO: Shared reading – Anthony Browne part 2

In 1976 I produced *Through the Magic Mirror*, a strange kind of book in which I painted many of the pictures before I wrote the story. I followed this with *A Walk in the Park*, a story I was to revisit 20 years later with *Voices in the Park*.

Probably my most successful book is *Gorilla*, published in 1983, and it was during this period that I was badly bitten by a gorilla whilst being filmed for television at my local zoo.

I have published 50 books, and amongst the awards that my books have won are the Kate Greenaway medal twice, and the Kurt Maschler 'Emil' three times. In 2000 I was awarded the Hans Christian Andersen Medal, an international award given to an illustrator for their body of work. I was the first British illustrator to receive the award. My books are translated into 26 languages and my illustrations have been exhibited in many countries - U.S.A., Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, France, Korea, Italy, Germany, Holland, Japan, and Taiwan, and I've had the pleasure of visiting these places and working with local children and meeting other illustrators.

In 2001-2002 I took a job as writer and illustrator at Tate Britain working with children using art as a stimulus to inspire visual literacy and creative writing activities. It was during this time that I conceived and produced *The Shape Game*.

From 2009-2011 I was the Children's Laureate."

Questions

- 1) How did Anthony Browne describe the book *Through the Magic Mirror*?
- 2) When was Anthony Browne's most successful book published?
- 3) What was special about Anthony Browne receiving an international award given to an illustrator?
- 4) What do the people think of Anthony Browne's work? How do you know?
- 5) What would Anthony Browne's next book be about? Why?

Conceive



Definition:

to become pregnant with.

Sentence:

She conceived her second child this year.