

Dan Anthony



Name: Dan Anthony

Where did you grow up? Cardiff

Where did you go to school? Roath Park Juniors and Howardian High School, a great comprehensive school that was closed soon after I left. I don't think it was my fault

What was the best thing about your school?
The friends I made.

What did you want to be when you grew up?
I didn't know. I wasn't very good at anything so I couldn't see an obvious 'thing' I should be doing. I used to write stories though. It was so natural to my way of thinking that I thought everybody did. It turned out I was a writer.

What are your hobbies? Music. I've always played in bands. Still do. I play bass and do the 'ooos' in the harmonies. Travel – just because I like where I am, it doesn't mean I'm not interested in being somewhere else.

What was your favourite book when you were young?
Uncle The Elephant – a story about a very silly elephant.

When did you consider being an author?

Always. I'm still considering it. One day other people might consider it too.

Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular? I'm a comic writer. I think people assume that that means I don't take things seriously. I think that other people choose not to see how ridiculous things can become. That's serious.

What advice can you give to budding authors?

Just write. Keep writing and keep trying more and more different ways of doing it. Then add reading. Write and read. Very slowly you'll get better.

Do you have any rituals when you write?

I'm pretty punctual and predictable. If I'm working on a big project, I start at 9am. Take an hour for lunch. Read and correct yesterday's stuff after lunch. Repeat until finished.

What's the best / worst part about being an author?

This answer applies to both aspects of the question: 'not knowing' – its exciting discovering a story, it's also slightly worrying – there's nobody to ask whether it's right or wrong.

Quick fire questions:-

What's your favourite childhood book:
Uncle the Elephant

Who's your favourite character from a children's book? Uncle the Elephant

Where is your favourite place to write?
At home

What's your favourite food?
snozzcumbers.

What's your favourite [children's] film or show? Top Cat

What's is your favourite word? Yes

What would be your superpower of choice? Flight

Favourite social media network? None

What makes you smile? I don't smile

If not an author, what would you be?
Nothing

What's your advice for budding writers?
Practice