

# Sarah Todd Taylor



**Name:** Sarah Todd Taylor

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Yorkshire and in Mid Wales on the coast. I love the sea.

**Where did you go to school?** I went to school in Mid Wales

**What was the best/worst thing about your school?** Best thing about my school was that the teachers were really keen on creativity and writing. The worst thing for me was probably sports day (I was never very good at that).

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

I wanted to be a writer or a historian. I spent years training to be a historian and love to write books set in the past.

**What are your hobbies?** I love to sing opera and appear on stage. I love the theatre, which is why I ended up setting the Max series in a theatre. I love sewing too. I've never been very good at drawing, so I like to draw with fabric instead.

**What was your favourite book when you were young?**

I loved the Olga da Polga books by Michael Bond – they were what made me want to have guinea pigs.

**When did you consider being an author?** I used to write stories when I was little. I wrote my first book when I was fourteen and I used to dream of seeing my work on bookshelves in our local

bookshop. My Dad once caught me nudging the books aside 'to make space for mine', and the night before my first book launch, I went into our local bookshop to nudge them aside one last time.

**Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular?**

My books usually have finding friendship and working out who you really are at the core of them. I love to write puzzles and mysteries and adventures, but the real heart of a book lies in what happens to your characters inside. My characters are often learning new things about themselves and working out their place in the world.

**What advice can you give to budding authors?**

Do try to read as much as you can. It genuinely helps a lot, as well as being a much needed break from thinking about our own writing all the time.

**What's the best part about being an author?**

The absolute best thing about being an author is when a reader says they enjoyed your book. I sometimes get amazing post with drawings of my characters and I cherish each and every one of them. It's amazing to think that a child has enjoyed my characters enough to want to draw them.

## Quick fire questions:

**What's your favourite childhood book?**

Olga da Polga

**Where is your favourite place to write?**

Gladstone's Library, North Wales

**What's your favourite film or show?**

Poirot

**What would be your superpower of choice?** Flying!

**What makes you smile?** Daisies

**If not an author, what would you be?**

Historian

**What's your advice for budding writers?**

Read. Lots

