

INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY?

Hear from Tim Tilley, Author and Illustrator



1. How did you get into this creative career?

I studied a BA in Illustration at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, then went onto to study an MA in Illustration at Central Saint Martins in London. Outside my studies, I wrote short stories and made self-published books, which I sold at design shops in London.

3. What advice would you give to somebody looking to get into this career?

Find and follow your passion. You might love writing short stories, comic books, plays. Put in the hours and learn your craft. Writing is a craft. There is so much work that can be improved in rewriting and re-editing. Be prepared to be rejected, every author gets rejected as part of their journey, and have the tenacity to keep going.

5. How did you know this is what you wanted to do?

I've always loved storytelling, reading stories, telling stories, and watching stories whether film or theatre. I spent a long time playing out stories in my head before committing them to paper. Writing short stories, and a degree-level project, creating a picture book, helped me realise I wanted to become an author.

2. What are the steps a young person should take to go into this career?

For young authors, write as much as you can. Write short stories, write poems, write flash fiction (there's usually a word count limit, say 500 words). Keep a notebook or scrapbook with you at all times. Write down ideas for stories, scenes, settings, characters, snippets of conversations. Every story, whether a short story or novel starts with a character and a scene, or a setting.

4. What is your favourite thing about the industry you have chosen to work in?

It's incredibly rewarding seeing your work in print, whether it's a printed short story, novel or self-published mini book. A published novel is a collaborative process, and I love working with editors, designers and marketing, and my agent to shape my novels.

Check out useful websites by scanning the QR codes!



The National Literary Trust:



The Poetry Society:



Young Poets Network:

