

Who am I?

I was born in 1946 and grew up near Halifax in a small village called Hipperholme in Yorkshire.

I am the writer and illustrator of children's books, mainly picture books.

I have written and illustrated nearly 40 books.



From 2009 to 2011 I was Children's Laureate.

As a child I would spend hours drawing and painting with my father.

I wrote and illustrated my first children's book in 1976 called 'Through the Magic Mirror'.

When I was growing up I wanted to be a journalist or a cartoonist.

Some of my books like 'Gorilla' and 'The Tunnel' were based on things that happened in my own childhood.

I am most famous for my illustrations and am particularly known for including gorillas as I like the contrast between their strength and their gentleness.