

Meet Tony Ross

Tony Ross is one of the most famous children's authors in the UK.

You might have seen some of the books he has written or illustrated in your classroom or in the library. As well as writing over 50 books himself, can you believe that he has illustrated over 800 books for lots of other authors?

Read on to find out more information about Tony, including an interview with him.



Tony the author

One of Tony's best-loved characters is the Little Princess. He has written many books about her and all the things she wants and doesn't want to do.

The Little Princess is 4 years old. Tony says that she reminds him of his daughter when she was little. Often, the Little Princess doesn't do as she is told. For example, she always wants to stay up late when it's bedtime. The first Little Princess book was called I Want My Potty.



Tony the illustrator

Tony has illustrated many books for other writers. These include the famous Horrid Henry series by Francesca Simon.

He also brought aliens to life in stories about Dr Xargle, written by Jeanne Willis.



Tony Ross, in his own words

Why did you become an illustrator and writer?

It just happened. I didn't like my job at the time and I wanted to do something to cheer myself up. I never thought I'd be an artist as I always wanted to work with horses. I once wrote to an actor to ask if I could be a cowboy in one of his films!



Where did you write your first book?

I wrote my first book when I was at work. It was called *Tales from Mr Toffy's Circus*.



How long does it take to write a book?

It can vary. Sometimes, it is as little as a few days to do the story and the pictures, but thinking about the idea can take weeks, months or even years.

Are there any characters that you really enjoy drawing?

I love drawing Miss Battle-Axe from the Horrid Henry books. She never smiles.

Is it hard to do illustrations for other writers' books?

It's easier to illustrate your own because every illustrator has things they don't like to draw or can't draw. If you write the story yourself you don't include those things in the story!



2

These questions are about *Meet Tony Ross*.

(page 1)

- 1 **Find and copy one** word from the top of page 1 that means *well known*.

(page 1)

- 2 The Little Princess reminds Tony Ross of someone. Who is it?

- 3 Tick **True** or **False** for each statement about the Little Princess.

Statement	True	False
There are lots of books about her.		
She always does as she's told.		
She is 5 years old.		
She doesn't like going to bed.		

- 4 What job did Tony Ross want to do before he became a writer and illustrator?

- 5 Complete the table with the names of the writers and the characters they write about.

Character	Writer
	Francesca Simon
Dr Xargle	
Mr Toffy	

- 6 Why does Tony Ross like to illustrate his own books more than books by other people?

Mark schemes

2

- 1 **Content domain:** 1a - draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts.

Award 1 mark for:

- *(most) famous.*

1 mark

- 2 **Content domain:** 1b - identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.

Award 1 mark for answers that refer to his daughter, e.g.:

- *his little girl.*

1 mark

- 3 **Content domain:** 1b - identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.

Award 1 mark for 3 boxes correctly ticked and **award 2 marks** for all 4 boxes correctly ticked.

Statement	True	False
There are lots of books about her.	✓	
She always does as she's told.		✓
She is 5 years old.		✓
She doesn't like going to bed.	✓	

Up to 2 marks

- 4 **Content domain:** 1b - identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.

Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following acceptable points:

- work with horses, e.g.:
 - *work at a stable*
 - *ride horses.*
- be an actor / be a cowboy in a film, e.g.:
 - *actor*
 - *cowboy*
 - *he wanted to be in films.*

Do not accept:

- *author*
- *artist.*

1 mark

- 5 **Content domain:** 1b - identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.

Award 1 mark for all boxes completed correctly.

Character	Writer
Horrid Henry or Miss Battle-Axe Do not accept Henry series	Francesca Simon
Dr Xargle	Jeanne Willis
Mr Toffy	Tony Ross

1 mark

- 6 **Content domain:** 1b - identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.

Award 1 mark for either of the following acceptable points:

- his own books are easier to illustrate / others' books are harder to illustrate
- he doesn't write about things that he can't draw / doesn't like to draw, e.g.:
 - *so he can draw what he can draw*
 - *he writes about characters he likes to draw*
 - *he can draw what he likes*
 - *you can illustrate whatever you want*
 - *he can draw his own characters.*

Also accept for **1 mark** reference to the following quotation:

- *It's easier to illustrate your own because every illustrator has things they don't like to draw or can't draw.*

Do not accept answers that only reference writing without mentioning drawing, e.g.:

- *it's easier to write your own books.*

Do not accept answers that refer to not liking other people's books without mentioning drawing, e.g.:

- *he likes his own books best.*

1 mark