Q&A WITH DAN SANTAT

What children's books do you think helped form your style?



The list could go on, and it's not just picture books it could be anything from comic strips like *Garfield*, to *Calvin and Hobbes*, to picture book authors. I've been a big Willam Joyce fan for a long time. Very subtle artists that most people don't know like Martin Matje, folks like that.

What was your favorite read-aloud book growing up? What is one of your favorite read-aloud books now?

Hands down, *The Monster at the End of This Book*. I could read that over and over again, it still holds up to this day! What is my favorite now? Well, I'd be kidding if I didn't say that it wasn't *Don't Trust Fish*. I read it at schools all over the country, and you know the kids just get a tremendous laugh out of it from ages four, five, and up.

What are some of your favorite colors to work with when you're illustrating?

That's a mixed bag, it really depends on the project that I'm working on. Obviously, if it's a book that takes place at night I'm not going to be using a lot of warm colors. And then you know, illustrations that take place during the day, I like to have a very warm palette. So I guess for certain books, I have a favorite color called Indian Yellow, and that has like an orangey-yellowish tint. Little fact here, Indian Yellow actually, the pigment is actually made by using the urine of a yak. I'm not kidding! And then when I'm working on night scenes, I do have this particular kind of teal that leans more to the blue. I guess you could say it's like a phthalo blue. So I guess those are two colors that you could say I really love.

Tell us about something you love and love to share with others.

Every time I finish a book, I like to roast coffee and give it to everyone I work with. From the art director, editor, to the author that I'm working with. Other than that, those are my passions.

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