# Q&A WITH NEIL SHARPSON

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



Uh, my favorite read-aloud book growing up was probably *Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl. I just loved the very simple plot of animals kind of like engaging in a big heist against some nasty farmers and yeah, that was one that really stuck with me. My favorite read-aloud book now, anything by Oliver Jeffords, but I think probably *Stuck* by Oliver Jeffords is my favorite read-aloud book.

**Was there a person or story you heard that inspired you to write Don't Trust Fish?**

No, not particularly. It came from the fact that as a child I loved learning about animals and I used to get really, really frustrated when I found out that fish can't be like neatly categorized. I was one of those kids who likes everything neat and orderly, so that kinda started a life-long feud against fish.

**If you could befriend a character from one of your books, who would you choose and why?**

Um, there's not really that many characters, I suppose Jeff is a good fish to have on your side, he basically rules the oceans. So yeah, I'd probably want to be friends with Jeff.

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

I love to share reading, I love to share stories. I always kind of find it so wonderful when I do readings in schools and there's kids there who want to tell me about the stories that they've written, and show me the art that they've done. I love seeing the next generation getting ready to tell their stories to the generation that comes after.

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