



The Pen & Pencil

An Interactive Monthly Newsletter About Books & More
For Readers and Writers Ages 6 - 11

September 2010

Author Spotlight on Alex Milway



Alex Milway is the author of a new trilogy with plenty of adventure for young readers. He was born in Hereford, England, in 1978, which makes him a very young author as well as a new one! His first book, *The Mousehunter*, features Emeline, who goes in pursuit of the dread

Captain Mousebeard. Here is what the author has to say about his book:

“*The Mousehunter* was my first book. The idea grew out of a short story posted on Old Hokey’s Whimsical Tales, an old weblog of mine where I published fairy tales and drew little illustrations to go with them. The story filled out and the world grew a little, and suddenly I had a huge story on my hands.

“I started out as an artist – a painter to be precise. My Granddad always told me I could paint his house if I liked, but that wasn’t quite what I had in mind. However, when I left art school I realized that I wanted to be an animator, making films like *Hayao Miyazaki* and *Nick Park*, and while aiming for that I found that I liked to write and illustrate the stories I’d created.

“I loved to make things (anything, if the truth be told) and books became the ideal object that I could create without much money or equipment. It was just me, my imagination and a pen, pencil and paper – alongside quite a few erasers.

“I loved to make things...and books became the ideal object that I could create without much money or equipment.” -Alex Milway

“I learnt quite quickly that stories are there for everyone, so enjoy them, and don’t let anything stop you making up stories of your own.”

The 2nd book in the trilogy, *The Curse of Mousebeard*, is now available at the library.

Source: www.themousehunter.com

*Nick Park: animator of the *Wallace and Gromit* claymation films

*Hayao Miyazaki: films include *My Neighbor Totoro*, and *Kiki’s Delivery Service*

Writing Challenge

School lunches! Write about your favorite (or least favorite) school lunch. Bring your entry to either College Hill or Irving Street Library by September 30, 2010. Include your name, age, and school!

What I Like Most About Summer



I like going to Elitch's and Lakeside and visiting the library!
 – Noah Baladez, age 6

I like going to my grandma's house to go to many places. Also, we go to swimming lessons. We also go to summer library programs.

– Nia Baladez, age 9

For this 2010 summer, I went on a vacation to Vail, Colorado. I love it there in the summer. It's never too hot or too cold, and there are always fun things to do. My favorite thing to do was to get into shorts and water shoes and see how far I could walk down the rapid-filled river without falling or getting my clothes wet. Doing that is so much fun and a great way to stay active in summer!

– Sarah Seibold, age 14

What I like most about summer is how I can just kick back and hangout with my friends. Also, how the days get longer. My days also get funnier. The best part of summer is getting to have way more freedom. But the best of all is you get to be out of school. My friends mean a lot to me and they are a lot of fun so at times that's the worst part. But I love summer for the things that happen. All the freedom and all the enjoyment we have. I am really glad that someone came up with summer. The best part of all is Summer Reading Program at the library.

–Ashley Garcia, age 12

I liked going to the Book Cliffs in Grand Junction. I took my dirt bike and rode in the hills. I loved the nights and the days we were there. That is what I like most about summer.

– Dean Seibold, age 10



What I like most about summer is that during the summer you have way more freedom. In the summer you don't have school and there are so many fun things to do. My personal favorite is going to camp because you get to meet so many new and interesting people. But not to say I don't love other things too, like swimming, fishing with my dad, and camping. I also love just going somewhere fun. Summer clichés are always fun to hear somewhere, like "summer love," and "beach body." Not to say that an education isn't nice. If I had to go one year without summer or summer break, I don't know what I'd do, because when else do you get to go on vacation or to camp or just chill with friends and family?

–Ariel Garcia, age 14

Congratulations to Sam and Max who both won a copy of *Measle and the Dragodon* in our Name the Book Contest! Winners of the "Make a Splash" T-shirt included Rachel, Garrett, Alex, Miranda, Sariah, Dean, and Nia .

A Robot at Work

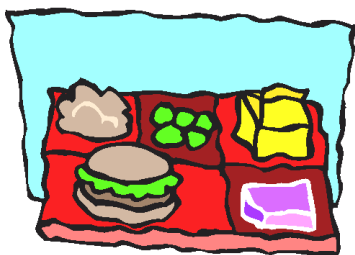
This is a super robot. It is gold and red. It is two houses tall and it can spray water. This robot is trying to cool down the fire. He called his robot friends and his robot friends helped him down the fire.

--Alex Capps, age 6



Pencil drawing by Alex

Back to School Jokes



Does anyone have anything good to say about school lunches? Here are a few school lunch jokes to get you back in the school groove, and to inspire you for this month's writing challenge!

What's worse than finding a caterpillar in your lettuce?

Answer: Finding half a caterpillar!

Student: I don't like cheese with holes.

Cook: Well just eat the cheese and leave the holes on the side of your plate!

Did you hear about the mean cook?

She beat the eggs and whipped the cream!

The Wind Is Calling Me Away

How can I sit through one more day,
For the wind is calling me away,
And I want to change with the leaves that fall,
But I'm here in school and I'm missing it all.

While leaves as bright as the sun fly by,
We add, subtract, and multiply,
And none of these numbers makes sense to me,
When the sky is as blue as the summer sea.

Oh, teacher, please let's race the leaves,
Let's jump in piles and climb the trees,
Let's add, subtract, and multiply
The wind, the leaves, and the deep blue sky.

From: *If You're Not Here, Please Raise Your Hand*,
by Kalli Dakos, J 811 Dak



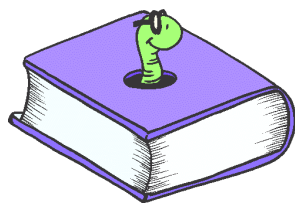
"So please, oh PLEASE, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install, a lovely bookshelf on the wall."

— From: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*,
by Roald Dahl

Happy birthday, Roald Dahl -
September 13th!



September Reading



Don't Tap Dance On Your Teacher,

by Katherine Applegate

Roscoe cannot wait to tap dance in the school talent show until some older boys make fun of him and say that tap dancing is just for girls.

Aliens Ate My Homework, by Bruce Coville

Rod is surprised when a miniature spaceship lands in his school science project and reveals five tiny aliens, who ask his help in apprehending an interstellar criminal.

Fantastic Mr. Fox, by Roald Dahl

Three farmers, each one meaner than the other, try all-out warfare to get rid of a fox and his family.

The Homework Machine, by Dan Gutman -

Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.

The Mousehunter, by Alex Milway

Captain Mousebeard is a feared mouse-hunting pirate. Emeline, a mouse-keeper, wants the bounty her master has put on Mousebeard's head.

Seal Island School, by Susan Bartlett – On Seal Island off the coast of Maine, a place swarming with pets of all kinds, nine-year-old Pru plans to keep her teacher from leaving by finding her a dog.

Join the Club!



If you like to fool around with words, and you are between the ages of 6 – 11, you might want to become a member of the *Pen & Pencil Club*. Come to our next meeting at College Hill Library. (The cookies are always sweet and the lemonade is not half bad.) Bring something you have written, or read a passage from your favorite book.

Next Meeting –

Saturday, September 11, 2010

2 – 3 p.m., Room L 107

Upcoming meetings: October 9,
November 6, December 18

Questions? Comments? Contact Mary Wickins,
mwickins@cityofwestminster.us
or call 303-658-2606

Westminster Public Library

3705 W. 112th Avenue, Westminster, CO 80031
www.westminsterlibrary.org

WESTMINSTER PUBLIC
Library