

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: Ross Montgomery

Ross Montgomery is the author of the picture books *Space Tortoise*, illustrated by David Litchfield, which was nominated for the Kate Greenaway medal and selected as one of the Guardian's best new books for children 2018. His debut novel, *Alex, the Dog and the Unopenable Door*, was nominated for the Costa Children's Book of the Year and the Branford Boase Award. It was also selected as one of The Sunday Times' "Top 100 Modern Children's Classics". The *Midnight Guardians*, Ross's first fiction novel with Walker Books, was selected as a Waterstones Children's Book of the Month. He has since written *Chime Seekers* and his first picture book with Walker Books *Ten Delicious Teachers*, illustrated by Sarah Warburton. Find him online at rossmontgomery.co.uk and on Twitter as @rossmontgomery.



WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD BOOK AND WHY?



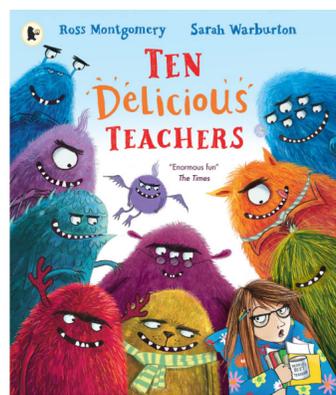
I was one of those kids who just loves books – they really were my most precious things. I'd be hard pushed to pick just one, but I think it probably would have been *DOUBLE ACT* by Jacqueline Wilson – a book about twins really chimed with me because I was really close to my sister, and I thought having different illustrators for Ruby and Garnet was a stroke of genius. Otherwise, it would have been my complete *Horrible Histories* set – I was a complete anorak about them.

WHICH OF YOUR OWN BOOKS IS YOUR FAVOURITE AND WHY?



An impossible question! They all have their own little space in my heart, I think because I always try to challenge myself in some way with each one. I think I'll always feel most fondly about *THE MIDNIGHT GUARDIANS* because it's been such a sea-change for me and my career – something about that book connected with people in a way that the others hadn't before. Maybe it's because it's my best writing, or my best story – maybe it's because it has a badger in a waistcoat.

WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO READ?



I have a habit of forgetting to read every now and then – often it's because I feel like I'm too busy. When I do start reading again, I always feel like I could kick myself – why on earth did I stop?! It literally just makes me feel better: it makes my life more fulfilling and fulfilled in the easiest and simplest possible way. There's nothing like the feeling of enjoying a book so much that you can't WAIT to have some time to yourself where you can dive in again.