

Good morning readers,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you this morning the very talented Helen Ross. Helen not only writes children's stories but she is also a children's poet.

Thank you for joining us today Helen, we are delighted to have you visit Jelli-Beanz Publishing.

JB: What inspired your Hopscotch Poems?

HR: The poem, **'Sorry I don't have my homework'** was inspired by a little boy I used to tutor many, many years ago. At the end of every session, I would give him homework to do by the following session. At the beginning of one session, I asked if he had his homework. He answered 'No, my cockatoo ate it.'

From the way he spoke, I actually believed him, as he always tended to do his homework. When I began to write the poem I used this incident as a basis of thinking up other funny, and some, albeit, farfetched ways that finished homework could disappear.

My poem, **'Bedlam in the Schoolyard'** was inspired by my wanting to create a poem for *Hopscotch* based on iconic Australian animals going to school and playing in the schoolyard. I just let my imagination go to town.

JB: Thank you, it is so interesting to hear the background / history of how a poem has evolved.

Do you have a favorite character from the poems?

HR: I love the sleeping wombats in 'Bedlam in the schoolyard'. I think they would be so cute when annoyed from their sleep.

JB: I too, love the wombats in your poem. We have an elderly wombat who lives under the porch of our beach house and when woken he too, becomes a tad grumpy!

What books did you love to read as a child?

HR: I loved A.A. Milne, Dr Suess and Agatha Christie. Also loved *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and *Charlotte's Web*. Loved stories (and still do) that whisked me away to far off places, where I became entranced in another world.

JB: Such wonderful authors. Helen can you please tell us a bit about your poetry writing process.

HR: I have pens and papers everywhere. So when an idea springs into my head I will jot it down before it disappears. If I can work on it, I love to write verses or paragraphs in my notebooks. Once they start to formulate, I may type them on the computer. But I really prefer writing them down, and reworking them first in paper. I can get ideas from anywhere - a snippet of a conversation, watching a movie, reading the paper, reading a novel, etc.

If a verse is giving me trouble, I will take a break but will continue to work through it in my head. Of course, I will have that pen and book handy incase I have a light bulb moment.

JB: Thankyou for sharing that with us Helen. It is so interesting to hear the different methods writers use in their process of writing. Do you have a site that readers can visit?

HR: My website is: <http://www.misshelenbooks.com> This showcases my children's books published by Little Steps publishing, Division of New Frontier

My blog is <http://misshelenwrites.wordpress.com>
Am also on Twitter (@HelenRossAuthor) Also on LinkedIn.

JB: Thankyou Helen. It has been a pleasure chatting with you this morning. We wish you all the best with your future endeavours.

Helen Ross fans can also look forward to Helen's latest book, co-authored with Donna Smith and beautifully illustrated by Aaron Pocock 'A Christmas Tail' due out in September 2012.