WALT: retrieve information from a text.

An Interview with Andy Seed

Andy Seed is an author whose book *The Silly Book of Weird and Wacky Words* was nominated for the 2016 Blue Peter Book Awards. His book *The Silly Book of Side-Splitting Stuff* won an award in 2015. In this interview, he talks about being nominated and his thoughts on reading.

What's it like to be nominated for a Blue Peter Book Award?

It is very, very special. Authors don't know that their books have been put forward for the award in the first place — so when the news arrives, it's right out of the blue and a quite wonderful surprise.

It's a bit like finding a massive bar of chocolate that you'd hidden, forgotten about and then unexpectedly discovered (except it's much better than that!).

This is doubly exciting for me because I won the award last year and I had the memorable experience of appearing on Blue Peter, which is probably the greatest kids' TV show of all time.

Do you think you would have enjoyed judging a book award when you were in school?

Ooh, yes, definitely. Everyone loves choosing, don't they? And what's better than sitting down with a load of great books (with possibly an egg custard to nibble while doing it) and picking your favourite?

You can also talk about the books with your friends and share the best bits.

What books from your childhood inspired a lifetime of reading and writing?

When I was titchy, I remember enjoying *Dr Seuss* books. My favourite character was The Perilous Poozer of Pompelmoose Pass.

Then, when I started reading longer stories, my best book was *Stig of the Dump* by Clive King. It's about a boy who meets a caveman in a hole. I'm really pleased that it's still around today, it's a great book.

When I was a really good reader, I adored the Greek myths — especially *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*: stories about heroes, monsters, battles, treasure, gods and epic journeys. Those books will make your imagination explode!

I had loads of favourite fact books too, including *Guinness World Records*.

What is your all-time favourite word and why?

Oh, that's just too hard to choose. There are so many stonking words in our language.

I actually list some of my favourites on pages 32/33 of *The Silly Book of Weird and Wacky Words*. These include: 'skedaddle', 'kerfuffle' and 'bamboozle'.

But at the moment, I think my favourite word is 'throstle'. It's an old term for a thrush (the bird), and I just think it's ludicrously good value*.

From *www.booktrust.org.uk*

Glossary

ludicrously good value — great because it's so silly

1 What do you think the phrase "out of the blue" (line 3) means?

.....

1 mark

2 The word "unexpectedly" on line 6 is (circle one):

a. a verb b. a noun c. an adjective d. an adverb

1 mark

3 Write down a phrase from the extract which shows that Andy really likes Blue Peter.

.....

1 mark

4 Why did Andy enjoy reading Greek myths as a child?

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1 mark

5 How does the text's layout make it easier to read?

.....

.....

2 marks

6 Andy compares being nominated to finding a bar of chocolate.
Do you think this is a good comparison to use? Explain your answer.

.....

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2 marks

7 Do you think you would enjoy choosing a book to win an award? Explain your answer.

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2 marks

Total out of 10