

Each month we will focus on an inspiring author based in or writing about Wales! You'll have an introduction to their latest book, what inspires them to write, and any advice they have for young writers!

Get to know

Jon Blake

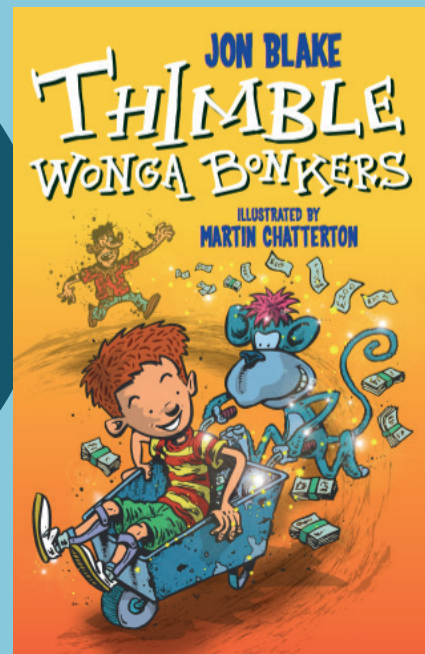


Jon Blake lives in Cardiff with his partner and 2 young children. He qualified as a teacher in 1979. His first story was published in 1984; since then he has written books, TV and radio scripts, and taught creative writing. Previous books include the bestselling *You're a Hero Daley B* and *The Last Free Cat*.

Summary:

Mum goes away on a spa week, leaving Dad to look after their son Jams, and pet monkey Thimble. But after Mum gives Thimble the shopping money, everything goes bananas! Can Jams save the day when Dad decides to sell his soul to repay their debts?

Thimble Wonga Bonkers is the third in the Lollies-shortlisted *Thimble Monkey* series publishing on 20 February by Firefly Press



What inspired you to write *Thimble Wonga Bonkers*?

I was ordered to write it by my son Jordi, who wants something funny to read when he comes home from school. I'd already written two *Thimble Monkey* books, the first of which was shortlisted for the Laugh Out Loud Book Awards, so I knew there would be plenty of readers looking forward to another.

Tell us a little about the story you've created.

Narrator Jams, his dad and Thimble are left bereft of money when Mum goes away: their attempts to get cash lead from one disaster to another, including the scene which I believe to be the apex of my literary career, when Thimble does a poo in Ikea.

What do you hope readers will take away from this story?

Jams, loosely based on Jordi, has cerebral palsy, so I hope readers identify with him and therefore don't see disability as alien, disturbing or funny. On the other hand I do hope they find Thimble very funny.

What specialist knowledge or research was required to write this book?

Obviously the close relationship I have with a disabled boy; the experience of being a children's author, like Douglas Dawson, the dad (though there the similarity ends, I hope, as he is a monumental failure!); being short of money; shopping in Ikea.



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