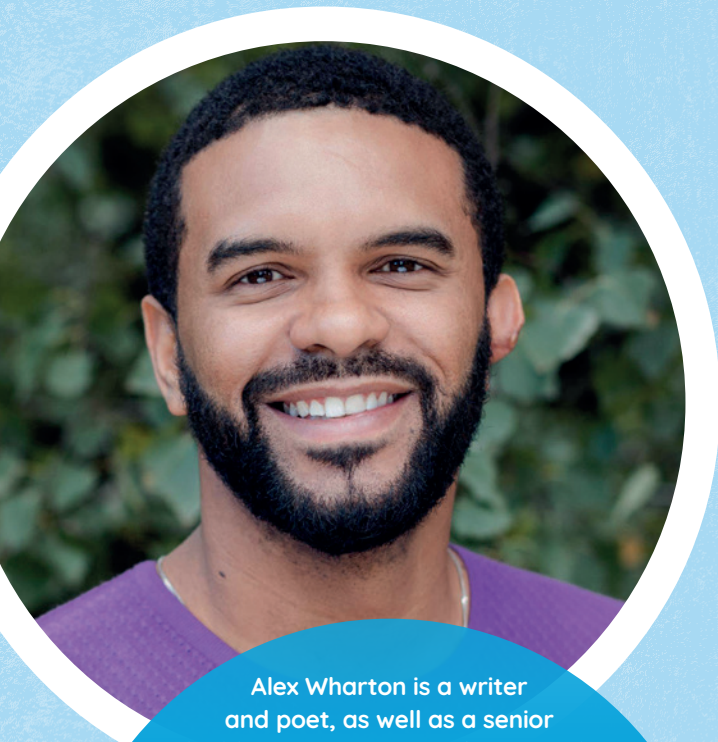


Each month we will focus on an inspiring author based in or writing about Wales! You'll have an introduction to their latest book, what inspires them to write, and any advice they have for young writers!

# Get to know

## Alex Wharton



Alex Wharton is a writer and poet, as well as a senior building surveyor in Torfaen, South Wales. He has been published regularly in *The Caterpillar*, *Wales Haiku Journal*, *Hedgerow* and *I Am Not a Silent Poet*. He collaborated with The Reading Realm in January 2020 where five of his poems featured on the educational iTunes App. A regular compere of Cardiff Arts Free Festival, Alex visits schools to perform his poetry and facilitate writing workshops. Alex won the inaugural Rising Stars Wales Award in 2020. *Daydreams and Jellybeans* is Alex's debut poetry collection.

Follow Alex on Twitter  
@alexwhartonpoet and Instagram  
@alexwharton



### Summary:

From forgotten jellybeans to sparking daydreams, Alex's poems, written for primary school age children, are both funny and thoughtful, and aim to spark familiarity and inclusion. And the illustrations from Katy Riddell focus on the fun and dreamlike quality of the poems' engagement with the natural world. These poems use rhyme, rhythm and free verse and are ideally suited to performance in a school setting, nurturing a love of language, reading, confidence and self-expression. Edited by TS Eliot prizewinner Philip Gross.

### What inspired you to write *Daydreams and Jellybeans*?

A love of poetry, and the joy it can bring when shared. Each poem is a new feeling, somewhere new to travel to. Also, an appreciation of the natural world that surrounds us, from kingfishers to caterpillars – I write about them because they are interesting and important.

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

*Daydreams and Jellybeans* is a collection of poems, and there is a little something in this book for everyone I hope. *Dear Brother* for example – is a poem styled as a letter to a brother that dribbles in his sleep and when he breathes in, it sounds like a crisp packet jammed in the nozzle of a Hoover. And *Hector the Horrible Hedgehog* – is a poem about a mischievous garden visitor that trashes the plant pots, burgles the shed and many other naughty things. This book is a variety of ideas, feelings and findings.

### In what way have libraries influenced you during your lifetime?

Growing up, the library was a special morning out from school, we would walk to the library with our teacher and it always felt like an adventure. Borrowing a book, keeping it safe, reading it and then taking it back the following week. It seemed generous and lovely. In books we can travel, dream and drift to wherever the book takes us and a library is there for everyone, it's anyone's experience.

### What message do you have to inspire young writers?

Write about the things you enjoy, write with a freedom that is yours. Live life, and whilst living and experiencing new things, remain open to ideas, to the feelings and surroundings. You will soon find your own way of collecting words and creating arrangements that suit you. And of course, enjoy reading. Novels, poetry, lyrics, magazines and everything in-between. This will develop your ability to tell your own story. I wish you the best of luck with your writing.



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