

The Petit Proust Questionnaire

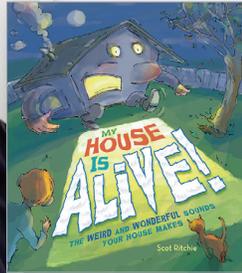
from Owlkids Books

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Meet author/illustrator Scot Ritchie

SCOT RITCHIE is an award-winning writer of more than 30 books for children. He has worked with the National Film Board of Canada and has had his work exhibited at the National Gallery of Canada. He loves traveling and has worked from London, Berlin, and Hawaii. He currently lives in Vancouver, British Columbia. Visit his websites at scotritchie.com and scotritchie.blogspot.ca and find him on Twitter as @ScotRitchie.



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My House Is Alive! takes readers on a tour of the basic inner workings of a house and explores the scientific reason behind the knocks, thumps, bangs, and booms we hear, showing there's nothing to be afraid of.

When you were a kid, what was your favorite thing to do?

We lived in the city near the woods, so we would go to the lily pond to look at bugs, frogs, and garter snakes, and then bring them back to the house.

What did you most dislike doing when you were a child?

Arithmetic. I was quite shy as well, so I didn't like being in front of a group of people.

As a child, where did you dream of living?

I don't think I dreamed of living anywhere else, unless I was reading a book—then I would imagine that location. One book that I loved (title forgotten) took place on an old ship. I remember a big storm and thought that would be a cool place to live.

What did you think you were good at when you were a kid?

I belonged to a swim club (The Flying Sharks). We were all given red sashes to put our awards on, so I thought I was pretty good at that.

When you were a kid in school, what did you look for in a friend?

I had a best friend since I was two, so I didn't have to do much looking. And on my street there were a lot of kids, so there was always a group somewhere to join. But I liked kids that were adventurous outdoors.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I had dreams of being an architect—until I realized how much math was involved. I loved bugs and that whole hidden world. I would have loved to grow up to be a studier of bugs.

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What was your favorite book as a child?

It was a double book (two books in one with a ring binder) called *Leander the Gander* (about a goose who discovers he can exchange his neck with any farmyard animal) and *Spunky the Donkey*.

What is your favorite pastime now?

Travel and illustration. I can take my work with me, so I visit places for two or three months at a time.

What do you find an absolute chore?

Anything to do with arithmetic. I haven't changed much.

If you could live anywhere, where would you go?

I'd like a second home in Berlin, because I love that city.

What is the one talent you wish you had?

I would like to be an ace tennis player.

What makes a good friend?

Someone who listens. Someone who laughs.

If you weren't an author or illustrator, what job would you have?

A studier of bugs.

What children's books have caught your attention lately?

I'm a big fan of Jean-Jacques Sempé and like his Little Nicholas series.

If you had to have a motto, what would it be?

I have two mottos: "actions speak louder than words" and "everything is relative."

