

1. Who was your favourite author when you were little?

Lots – Malcolm Saville and Elinor M Brent Dyer, both of whom still have fan clubs, Noel Streatfield and Laura Ingalls Wilder too.

2. What do you prefer tea or coffee?

Tea!

3. What's your favourite book that you've written?

Impossible to answer! I like them all. I think Piper is the most interesting though I can see that Fur is perhaps the more elegantly written!

4. Do you play any sports? If so what sports?

I'm a keen swimmer. I love walking and I cycle a bit too. I'm not competitive so I don't do sport in that way – just to keep me fit.

5. What is your favourite meal?

Home-made soup with crusty bread, followed by home-made cake/scone or a traditional pudding! Yum!

6. Do you think your jokes are funny (I do!)?

Well, thank you! I think some of them are – but some are a bit lame! I'd really love to be better at jokes. I really admire people who can do stand up or who are continually witty and amusing like Paul Merton and Ian Hyslop.

7. What is your favourite film?

Ooh – very hard question! Keeps changing. I loved 'A Very Long Engagement' recently. I very much admire the work of Studio Ghibli and loved 'Howl's Moving Castle'. I enjoy lots of European films. 'Delicatessen' is great and I really enjoyed 'Hidden'. 'Run Lola Run' is another favourite.

8. What is your favourite play?

Hmmm...tricky one! I enjoy theatre hugely but more because of the way plays are treated, rather than the actual play. Can I choose favourite theatre companies instead? I'd really recommend Kneehigh, Peeplykus and a tiny company called Plested and Brown. I do like 'Noises Off' though – done well, it's hilarious!

9. Do you think that one of your books will become a film?

Would love it if one did but I need to get better known, I think! A local youth theatre company is thinking of turning Piper into a play though.

10. What would you prefer, a cheese sandwich or a strawberry milkshake?

They'd both make me really ill as I get migraine so can't eat cheese or strawberries! But if I had to, I'd go for the sandwich – so long as it was Cheshire or Lancashire cheese and brown bread!

11. If you could be a character from one of your books, who would you be and why?

What a lovely question! I'd like to be Crow from Piper – he strikes me as really cool and I rather fancy being a whizz with some fire-staffs. The truth is I'm much more like Kate in the 'My Mum' books, forever questioning and pretty darn moody! I envy Grace in Fur as she's very pretty, very nice and a great swimmer – but I could do with out the fur and the family history!