

Interviewing an author

Students of B' Class

A: it's such a big pleasure to be here with you in this magical place of your school. I love being with children and talking with you. Why there is a boat in the school library?

P: Because book is the boat to the fantasy land.

P: The author is the captain.

P: Did you always want to be an author?

A: I always liked to write and tell stories to others. When I was at your age I used to make up stories and read books. All these years the idea of writing books grew up inside me and there was a moment that the story I had in my mind took form and became a book.

P: What are your feelings when writing a book?

A: I have various feelings: joy when the result is what I expected. I'm tired not mentally but sentimentally because it's like giving birth to a child. Overall it's sheer joy.

P: Do you make a research before start writing a book?

A: Before I start writing I decide the theme of my book. My first book was about the Turkish invasion in Cyprus in 1974. I studied historical books, articles from newspapers and talked to people who witnessed the facts. It's important not to make mistakes about the historical facts and to give wrong information. Based on these historical documents I also add fictional elements and create the book.

P: What procedure do you follow to write a book?

A: Firstly I decide the theme of my book and then comes the research, you take information and then you make the structure of the book. It's like writing a school essay –introduction, main theme and closing. It's very important to make to make

the story interesting so you can attract the attention of the reader. Then you send it to the publisher and wait for approval.

P: Do you work together with other people?

A: Publisher is like a home, a home for books. Many people work there to create a book. A greek publishing company took over my book. An editor corrected the grammar and the structure of the language.

P: Do you write for children or for grown-ups?

A: Until now I have been writing for grown-ups, writing for children is a difficult job because children are strict judges. When I'm ready I will attempt writing for kids as well.

P: What is your inspiration for writing books?

A: Inspiration can come from a story you accidentally hear or from a book you have read. The most important inspiration comes from the books I have been reading since I was a child. The most precious gift you can give to your self is reading books.

P: Do you use real or fictional characters in your book?

A: In my two books I use both real and fictional characters. Based on a real story I enriched the structure with fictional characters.

P: Do you use the Cypriot dialect in your books?

A: Here in Cyprus we use the dialect when talking and greek language when writing. I personally love the local dialect, so I used it in both of my books.

P: Have you started writing a book?

A: I finished the sequence of my previous books, so it's a trilogy. I'm waiting for an answer from my publisher.

P: How much time do you need to write a book?

A: It depends on the time I have on my disposal, the research that has to be done and my family obligations. It might take a year or two.

A: Why books are so important?

Pupils: they help us read and write without making mistakes, we learn new words, we become more intelligent, we get new ideas.

A: So books are not decorative items, they are true friends, they offer much, without asking something in return.

Following the author creates a story with children.