



"Today's writers, tomorrow's leaders"



Jacek Dubois (born in 1962 in Warsaw) is a lawyer and the author of detective and adventure books for the youth, as well as articles and books for adults. In 2012 - 2015 he was a member of the State Tribunal. He wrote, among others, such books as "Detective agency", "And everything because of the Pharaoh", "The cats of the desert", "Mad Sphinx " and "Operation, duck eggs".



Tomek Kurlenda – a student of class VII A in the school year 2017/2018 of the school Szkoła Podstawowa nr 28 w Białymstoku

The interview

Tomek Kurlenda: You are a well-known lawyer and work in a lawyer's office. How did it happen that you started writing detective and adventure books for young people?

Jacek Dubois: Everyone in life should have some hobby because it helps to relax after work. In my case, writing books has become such a hobby. Just like gardening or playing football to relax, I just like to write. I write books for children because when I started writing my sons, Michał and Staś, were little and I decided to surprise them by making them the main characters of the first books.

Tomek Kurlenda: In your job you deal with very important matters. You also have a family. When do you find time to come up with all these stories and write?

Jacek Dubois: I invent the story most often during the trip, driving a car or flying by plane. I usually write either in the evenings in the hotels where I am staying when I work as a lawyer, or when I travel and have several free hours and a free mind.

Tomek Kurlenda: You have written a series of books about the adventures of the family of Mauryca who is an archaeologist. The main characters are teenagers: Staś, Michał, Natalka



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and Weronika. Are these characters modeled on people you know or knew in the past?

Jacek Dubois: The main characters of the books "And everything because of the Pharaoh" and "The cats of the desert", "Mad Sphinx" and "Operation, duck eggs" are my two sons Michał and Staś, of course I do not describe their real adventures, but the described characters are given some real features of my children. Natalka also exists in reality, she is now a painter. At that time she was a classmate of my son. Weronika, on the other hand, is a very promising tennis player. She is my goddaughter.

Tomek Kurlenda: Most of your books are realistic and are related to the law and the activities of the judiciary. That's understandable, because you are a lawyer, but how did you come up with talking cat in your books?

Jacek Dubois: The talking cat in the book is related to the story from my childhood, which I describe in the preface to the book "And everything because of the Pharaoh". When I was 6 years old, my dad was getting back home from a party when he found a small cat in a sandbox. He brought it home. I liked that cat very much, but after a few days it disappeared. When I started asking my parents, they said that it had to go on a long journey, but it often calls and gives me messages that it cannot tell me personally because I'm always in kindergarten. After many years, I learned that the cat was sick and died, but my parents did not want to tell me about it. Then my dad told me fairy tales, the character of which was a cat. After years I told tales to my sons, until finally I decided to make the cat the main character of the book.

Tomek Kurlenda: The animal is also the character of another book - "Momo, you rowdy". Is Momo a real animal or just a result of your imagination?

Jacek Dubois: Momo the dog is real and lives up to this day. It's an African Rhodesian, its owner is a well-known journalist Beata Sadowska. Once when we were sailing, she told me about Momo's different adventures. They were so funny that I decided to make him the hero of the book. What's interesting, Beata Sadowska decided to write a story about her dog and her book "Momo does not like traveling" will be published soon.

Tomek Kurlenda: As far as I know, you have a wife and children. Do they read your books? What do they think about them?

Jacek Dubois: My sons are already adults and read adult books, but as children, of course, they read my books. They followed their invented adventures with interest. My godson, Antek Wende, also appeared in the book. Today he is a law student. He was the first reviewer of my books.



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Tomek Kurlenda: I would like to ask you another question. What books did you read when you were my age and do you have your favorite, which you would like to come back to?

Jacek Dubois: As a child, I read a lot. I read Polish authors like Edmund Niziurski, Adam Bahdaj and Hanna Ożogowska with great pleasure. I love Karol May's books about the adventures of Winnetou and Old Shatterhand, books by Jack London about gold seekers in Alaska, as well as books by Erich Kastner. Today I usually return to the classics, like "Little Prince", "Alice in Wonderland" and "Peter Pan".

Tomek Kurlenda: Thank you, Mr Dubois.



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