

13th May 2026

Oxford Class
The Castle School
Love Lane
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Berkshire RG14 2JG

I was delighted to hear from Ms Wiltshire how much you have enjoyed some of my Alex Rider and Diamond Brothers books and I apologise it has taken so long to reply to your questions, but I have recently been away on a UK promotional tour for my new novel, *A Deadly Episode*.

All of your questions were fantastic and here are answers to just a few of them!

How did you get the idea to be an author?

My inspiration to become an author stemmed from my love of reading and telling stories to my friends at school (also I wasn't really very good at anything else!).

How old were you when you wrote your very first book?

I started writing at school when I was 10 years old although it took many books and a long time for my first book to be published.

Why did you decide to write spy and detective novels?

I love reading spy books so I started writing the Alex Rider series because I thought it would be fun to have a teenager as a spy who could have many exciting adventures.

What is your favourite book?

I am most proud of *Stormbreaker* as it is the first book in the Alex Rider series and it has sold over 21 million copies.

Who was your favourite author when you were a child?

As a child I enjoyed reading all sorts of books from Agatha Christie to Charles Dickens but my favourite book was actually a series – The TinTin series. He has wonderful adventures and he happens to be a writer!

What gave you the inspiration behind your books?

I get inspiration from everything around me - from the news, my dreams and conversations with family and friends and I spend a lot of time thinking about plots when I'm walking my Labrador, Chase, along the river.

How long did the books take to write?

Research and taking inspiration from everything around me is important when I'm writing and it can take six months from when I first have an idea for a new plot to actually start writing the book.

Do you use a laptop to write or do you use a pen and paper?

All of my notes and my first draft of a book are always handwritten – I use an ink pen and a different coloured ink for each book. Once I have reviewed my first draft I then use my laptop!

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of the Alex Rider books – there are 14 in the series!

With best wishes



ANTHONY HOROWITZ