



Press Release

Daydreams and Diaries, the Story of Jacqueline Wilson

5 April – 2 November 2014

Daydreams and Diaries, the Story of Jacqueline Wilson, is an exhibition exploring the life and work of one of Britain's best-loved children's authors. The exhibition charts Dame Jacqueline Wilson's continued and prolific contribution to children's literature, offering fans an extraordinary insight into her life and work. The exhibition is on tour from Seven Stories, National Centre for Children's Books, Newcastle. The V&A Museum of Childhood is the only London venue to host the exhibition.

Former Children's Laureate (2005-2007) and multi-award winning author, Jacqueline Wilson has written nearly 100 books which have been translated into 34 different languages, and has sold over 35 million copies in the UK alone. The exhibition celebrates these outstanding achievements and look at her work in a wider context, reflecting on the diverse lives of her characters and the impact of their stories on young readers. Particular attention is paid to some of Jacqueline's own favourite stories including *Tracy Beaker*, *The Illustrated Mum*, *The Suitcase Kid*, *Hetty Feather* and *Cliffhanger*.

Visitors can delve into Jacqueline's life and work and find their own inspiration in the settings where she came up with some of the ideas for her most famous books. The exhibition begins with a replica of the childhood bedroom where she developed her love for reading and finishes with a mock-up of the study in which she now works. Also on display will be short stories and diaries written by Jacqueline as a young girl, showing the origins of her talent for writing, while annotated drafts of favourites such as *Tracy Beaker* and the later work *Hetty Feather* will give fans further insight in to these well loved stories.

Inseparable from Jacqueline's books, Nick Sharratt's illustrations provide the unique visual narrative that has become instantly recognisable to fans all over the world. The exhibition

explores this important creative partnership and friendship which began with Tracy Beaker in 1990. Visitors can see a number of Nick's draft illustrations alongside drawings he sketched as a child.

The exhibition aims to inspire young people, emphasising the imagination and storytelling which is so important to Jacqueline's narratives and experience as an author, while being enjoyable for both adults and children.

-ENDS-

For further PRESS information please contact Joanna Bolitho or Samantha Morton on 020 8983 5219/27 or email j.bolitho@vam.ac.uk or s.morton@vam.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About Jacqueline Wilson

Born in Bath, Jacqueline Wilson spent most of her childhood in Kingston-on-Thames. She always wanted to be a writer and wrote her first "novel" when she was nine, filling countless Woolworths' exercise books as she grew up. She started work as a journalist for DC Thomson in Scotland. She has been writing full time all her adult life.

Jacqueline has been on countless shortlists and has won many awards, including the Smarties Prize, and the Children's Book Award. *The Illustrated Mum* won the Guardian Children's Fiction Award and the 1999 Children's Book of the Year at the British Book Awards. It was also shortlisted for the 1999 Whitbread Children's Book Award. *The Story of Tracy Beaker* won the 2002 Blue Peter People's Choice Award. As well as receiving an OBE in 2002 for Services to Literacy in Schools, Wilson was awarded a DBE in 2008.

For more information on Jacqueline Wilson visit www.jacquelinewilson.co.uk

About Nick Sharratt

Nick Sharratt graduated from St Martin's School of Art in 1984 and has been working as an illustrator ever since. As well as writing his own books he has produced around 170 books to date and is the illustrator for multimillion-selling author Jacqueline Wilson. Awards won by Nick include The Children's Book Award, The Sheffield Children's Book Award and The Nestle Gold Prize. Nick lives in Edinburgh.

About V&A Museum of Childhood

The V&A Museum of Childhood aims to encourage everyone to explore the themes of

childhood past and present and develop an appreciation of creative design through its inspirational collections and programmes. The Museum is part of the V&A, housing the national childhood collection. The galleries are designed to show the collections in a way which is accessible to adults and children of all ages.

V&A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA.

Admission: **FREE**. Nearest tube: Bethnal Green. Open daily: 10.00 – 17.45, last admission 17.30.

www.museumofchildhood.org.uk Switchboard: 020 8983 5200

About Seven Stories, National Centre for Children's Books.

Seven Stories opened in 2005 and is the only place in Britain dedicated to the art of children's books and the joy of reading, and one of just a few such places in the world. Everything they do inspires children and grownups to choose, share, read and enjoy the best children's literature and their work is enjoyed by over 150,000 people every year. Seven Stories have established an internationally important collection of artwork, manuscripts and archives of Britain's most acclaimed writers and illustrators for children from 1930s to the present day. Seven Stories was awarded National status by Arts Council England in 2012 in recognition of the significance of its collection and its high standard of care, and the excellent ways that it engages with visitors and users. In 2013 Seven Stores was voted the nations favourite education project and awarded the National Lottery Good Causes award. www.sevenstories.org.uk

seven stories
National Centre for Children's Books



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