



Hans Christian Andersen Award 2002



Quentin Blake

 United Kingdom

I tend to be concerned with people - the faces they make and the way they move. If you have the instinct to want to draw and tell stories in pictures, there are many different things one might contribute.

Quentin Blake was born in London and grew up in Sidcup, Kent. He has been drawing ever since he can remember. His first published drawing appeared in *Punch* magazine when he was only 16 years old. He worked as an illustrator and cover artist for *Punch* and *The Spectator*. He was the head of the Illustration Department of the Royal College of Art and later its Senior Fellow and Visiting Professor. In 1999 he was appointed the inaugural Children's Laureate. He used his two-year tenure to raise the profile of children's book illustration. He received a knighthood for 'services to illustration' in the 2013 New Year's Honours List.

His illustrations are funny and down to earth, with a contagious joyfulness. His originality and sense of humour, together with his skill of line, colour and movement, have made him an illustrator beloved around the world. His books have won numerous prizes and awards, including the Whitbread Award, the Kate Greenaway Medal, the Emil/Kurt Maschler Award and the International Bologna Ragazzi Award.