

Authors of the Month



Allan and Janet Ahlberg

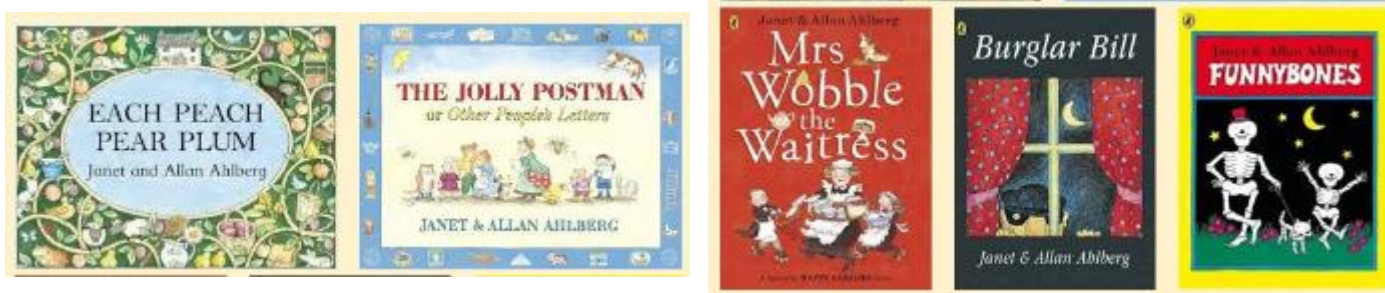
Allan Ahlberg was born in Croydon in 1938, but grew up in Oldbury, near Birmingham. From the age of twelve, his dream was to be a writer. **Janet Hall** was born in 1944, in Yorkshire and spent her childhood years in Leicester. She went to Sunderland to train to become a teacher, where she met Allan.

The couple married in 1969, and Janet decided against teaching as a career and turned instead to graphic design. While Allan worked full time as a teacher, Janet's first work was published.

She began urging Allan to write a text for her to illustrate. Hard though it is to believe, their submissions to publishers were met with rejection slips. Then, in one week, Penguin took the following books: *The Old Joke Book*, A & C Black took *The Vanishment of Thomas Tull* and Heinemann took *Burglar Bill*. By the 1980s, the Ahlbergs were selling books around the world.

The inspiration for the 'Jolly Postman' was the fact that Jessica, their daughter, was always upset when she went to the letterbox and none of the letters were for her. This is when Allan and Janet wrote her a book that was full of letters. The Jolly Postman weaves together various fairytale characters in a continuous narrative, while introducing readers to varied written genres - letters, a postcard, birthday card, letter from a solicitor etc. The book took five years to make and is considered a text that all primary school children should read.

Books by these authors:



Let me know what you think!

Mrs K Ridley