**Scholastic Interview with Avi**

**General Questions for Avi**

**Hi, Avi. Many teachers use your books during reading instruction. Currently, one group of teacher candidates is getting ready to read your book *The Fighting Ground*. What suggestions do you have for teachers who would like to use your books during literacy instruction?**
I think the most important thing is to enjoy the story. I don't like the idea of a book being a test, or being used for a test. The way — in my opinion — to make good readers is to let kids choose their own books and NOT test them.

**What TV shows do you watch?**
The truth is I don't watch TV at all. It bores me.

**What made you want to write about magic in *Midnight Magic*? How did you come up with names like Fabrizio, Mangus, and Teresina?**
It's just fun to do.

**In the book *Ereth's Birthday*, what kind of animal is Marty?  Why did you choose this particular animal for Marty the fisher?**
He is a *fisher*. He was chosen because he's one of the few animals that prey on porcupines.

**Who dies in *Perloo the Bold*?**
**P.S. My friends tell me it is good.**
Your friend is right. Read the book.

**What is your real name?**
Dghtyto Bvith Bnpht Ingworht Quvopt Jr.

**What do you do for fun?**
I like to cook. Photography is my hobby.

**In *Nothing but the Truth*, why did you write the book like a play? I have enjoyed your book *Nothing but the Truth*. I am on page 94. It's interesting so far. Will you please tell us your birth name? I won't tell. PLEASE!**
Every book I write has a style that tries to fit the content. *Nothing but the Truth* lets the reader decide what is happening.

**What inspired you to write *Perloo the Bold*, and are Montmers real creatures?**
The work is a fantasy. I wanted to write a fantasy set in the Colorado mountains.

**What inspired you to write *Nothing but the Truth*, because it is really good?**
My inspiration derives solely from my desire to tell a good story.

**Where did you get the name Charlotte Doyle?**
Popular name in Providence during the 19th century.

**What is your favorite book that you wrote?**
Don't have one.

**How long did it take to write your longest book?**
Fourteen years to write *Bright Shadow*.

**What made motivated you to write *Midnight Magic*?**
Just had a good idea that seemed to work.

**You should make a movie of *Charlotte Doyle*. Have you ever thought of doing that?**
There is a movie being made right now.

**I've read *Nothing but the Truth* and *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle,* and I liked them both. I know you only go by Avi, but I know that's not your real birth name. I looked at the other answered questions, and you said your name is a mystery. I was wondering if Avi has anything to do with your real name. Can you give me a hint?**
Here's a hint. In one of my books there is a character with my real name. Only the last name is spelled backwards.

**I love the book *the True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*! I am going to write a book someday, but I need some ideas of what to write about. Can you help me? I want it to be something about a girl around my age (10). Thank you.**
Every writer has to think up her own ideas.

**Do you do a lot of research for the books you've written?**
For the historical fiction I do a great deal.

**What inspired you to be a writer?**
My love of reading.

**How did you feel when you wrote your first book?**
Just fine and curious as to what people would think of it.

**How old were you when you started writing?**
Six, when in first grade.

**What interested you in writing about mice in many of your books?**
They are just fun to write about.

**Do you plan on writing any other books soon?**
I'm working on four books.

**Do any of your books relate to your life in any way, and how?**
Often they are based on people I know, places of been, things I've seen, thought or felt. But never an actual person.

**I have read book one and two of the Lord Kirkle series, but what happened to Lawrence and the gang in America? Did he ever reunite with his father in England? What about Maura and Patrick? I want more!  Any chance on a third book? Mrs C.**
I think about it. But I haven't done it.

**Hi, Avi. My name is Doug M. I am in 7th grade. I am reading your book *Crispin* for a book report. It is a really great book, full of action and adventure. I am not far enough in the book to find out what the cross of lead has on it. I hope you make another Crispin book. That one is not enough. What other book do you recommend?**
You might like *The Fighting Ground.*

**Are you going to write a sequel to *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*? Our class loves the first one.**
I don't think I ever will.

**Thank you so much for writing *Emily Upham's Revenge*! It is my favorite book. I have read it six times! I would love to be an author when I grow up. Do you have any tips for me? Do you have the names and addresses of any publishing company's that you can give me? Thank you! Bye!**
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**I thought that *The End of the Beginning* was really funny. Are you going to make another book on one of Avon's and Edward's adventures?**
I'm supposed to write a sequel to it. I'll try.

**Hi Avi, I really like *The Secret School*. I liked learning that there were one-room school houses in Colorado. Is there a series for *The Secret School*?**
I haven't thought of a sequel yet.

**I am a third-grade student. We have read *The End of the Beginning* and *The Secret School*. I wanted to know why you named the ant Edward and the snail Avon.**
I named Edward and Avon after friends of mine.

**Hi, Avi. I'm really enjoying *The Secret School*. This is the first of your books that I've heard, but now I'm determined to read more of your books. I take that back; my teacher has read us *The End of the Beginning*. Did Ida ever get to college? Thank you.**
I don't know what happened to Ida.

**I enjoyed reading *The End of the Beginning*. The book was so funny I could barely handle it. Your books are great!**
Thank you.

**Hi, Avi. I really like *The Secret School*. Where did you get all those ideas? I wish I could be a writer like you. You are a great writer!**
By thinking really hard.

**My class is almost done with *The Secret School*. My favorite character is Ida because whenever Ida has a problem she always fixes it. The question I have for you is, at the end of the book do Ida and Felix have any more problems to face? Thank you.**
You have to finish the book.

**Hi, Avi. I have read *The Secret School*. Who does Ida like better, Herbert or Tom? How did you get all these ideas? Does Felix like Mary? Thank you.**
The story ends when the story ends.

**I am fascinated by your books! I especially like your book *The End of the Beginning*. I hope Avon and Edward have more adventures!**
I’m supposed to think of a sequel. We’ll see.

***The End of the Beginning* is very good! If I ever get to reading all your books I'll probably love all your books. You are a very good author. How do you do it? Thank you.**
I work very hard.

**Our teacher read *The End of the Beginning* to us. I really liked the book and I'm really impressed. How did you get the name Avi? Thanks!**
My sister gave me the name Avi.

**For a few weeks we have been reading your wonderful book, *The Secret School*. We enjoy learning about Ida and her friends. Does Ida like Tom more than Hebert? Thank you!**
That's a private matter. You'll have to ask her.

**Hi, I am a fan of *The Good Dog.* Just to tell you, I'm not finished with the book yet. What happens with the wolf and McKinley? And does Duchess get found? Well, those are all my questions. See ya. P.S: Where do Jack and McKinley lives?**
You'll have to finish the book to get answers. The story is set in Steamboat Springs.

**I am a third-grade teacher. My class has recently read *The Secret School* as a read-aloud. We enjoy learning about Ida and her friends and the problems that they face. We are very impressed with the determination that your characters possess. We are curious to know if there are any one-room schoolhouses that still exist in Colorado.**
There are quite a few.

**Do like to play football, and do you like to play basketball? If you don't play any, I wish I were there to teach you how to play both sports. I know you would have a lot of fun with a lot of people. AND I want to know if you have a lot of friends.**
Yes, I have some good friends.

**Why did you choose to be a writer when you could've done something else in your life?**
I find writing a wonderful challenge.

**Do you have any other hobbies that you like other than writing books?**
Writing is my profession. Photography is my hobby.

**Did the little boy inspire you to write *Something Upstairs?* I really enjoyed it and would like you to make another one.**
Maybe I will someday.

**When did you start to get so interested in books?**
When I started to read.

**What inspired you to write all of your books?**
I enjoy making up stories that other people can enjoy.

**Do you like any sports? I like basketball. I like to play baseball. How about you?**
I play a game called squash.

**Do you like to play football, and who is your favorite team?**
I root for the Denver Broncos.

**Was *Something Upstairs* a personal experience for you?**
I did live in that house. The rest is fiction.

**Do you ever wish you had five wishes? If you did, what would you wish for?**
Peace, plenty, happiness, kindness, and humor for everybody.

**What year did you write *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*? And what grade did you get?**
I wrote *CD* about 12 years ago. Never did get a grade.

**How many books have you written altogether?**
60.

**I wanted to ask you what school you went to as a kid and what it felt like to not know how to read and write. I know you learned and took classes for it, but I would hate if I failed all my classes in high school. I would feel horrible and ashamed even if I had a problem.**
Shame doesn't help anyone. You need only work as hard as you can.

**When did you start your first book, and what was it about?**
*Things that Sometimes Happen*. 1986. It has short stories for short people.

**My question for you is, do you ever think about making a movie or a sequel to the book *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*?**
Someone is making a movie right now.

**What became of your brother and sister after you became an author? Why were you a librarian for 25 years when you could have been a famous author all those years?**
It took a long time for me to earn enough with my writing. My brother and sister keep living their own lives.

**Is it true that you have reading disabilities? If yes, how has this impacted you as a writer?**
I have no reading disabilities. But a do have some dyslexic symptoms.

**What did you enjoy the most when writing *The Fighting Ground*? What do you find to be the most difficult when writing books?**
It's always fun to write something that goes well.

**Do you ever wish you weren't an author?**
Fridays at about five o clock.