

# Mr Smith

**Can you remember when you first learnt to read?**

Yes, I can remember sitting with my father whilst my brother was being born in hospital. He used to make the best sausage sandwiches, so that is what we had been living off for the last two weeks. Whilst we sat there eating them, just me and him, there was a break through. Because he was there I was able to do it.

**What was your favourite book as a child and why?**

*'Ned the Lonely Donkey'*

It was a Ladybird book about a donkey who went to find a friend. A picture of a lapwing in the book is what got me interested in my life long passion for birds.

**What sort of reading do you do for pleasure now?**

Everything! I always read lots of books at the same time! I enjoy lots of different genres.

**What has been your favourite book of the last five years?**

It is only in the West Country Studies Library in Exeter, because it is not published. It is a book about the Westcountry, written by a nineteenth century Vicar from his own records of his parishioners stories.

**What (if anything) are you reading at the moment?**

James Salter's autobiography  
Photographer - Eugene Atget  
Bird Migration New Naturalist  
John Piper and Myfanwy Piper biography

**Why does reading for pleasure matter to you?**

Because I have no friends! No, really because it makes the day more humane.

*Interviewed by Megan Haward + Harvey McIntosh*



**Mr Smith**  
Head of Sixth Form  
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