

## 2019 Fort Worth BookFest Author Interview Series



... with **Barry Rodges**, author of *Hippopotomonstrosesquipedalian: Big Words for Little Kids*

**Where is your favorite place to read?**

The couch

**What is your favorite book to give an adult or a child?**

I don't have a single favorite. It's important to find the right book for each individual.

**What books do you return to most often, whether passages or whole?**

The Bible, *Boulevard of Broken Dreams* by Kim Deitch, "*There Are Rocks in My Socks!*" *Said the Ox to the Fox* by Patricia Thomas & Mordecai Gerstein

**What is the last book that had you reading past your bedtime?**

*John Dies at the End* by David Wong (as well as the sequels *This Book is Full of Spiders* & *What the Hell Did I Just Read*)

**Who made reading important to you?**

As a child, it was my parents. They both read to us a lot. My father would read *There's a Monster at the End of This Book* using Grover's voice. Now, it's my children that keep me reading.

**BONUS QUESTION: What is your favorite book set in the southwest?**

Any of the numerous *Pogo* collections I have.

### Author Bio

I've been drawing cartoons for longer than I can remember. I began publishing my own mini comics late in high school. You can still find some of my work in finer comic shops from Las Angeles to New York.

I've always been interested in children's literature, but the bug to create a children's book really hit me after my wife & I started having children of our own. I love the idea of a child getting lost in the drawings of a story, and letting their imaginations run wild. I am a creative director by day, so I get to spend a lot of my time creating and selling ideas. I've always found pleasure in being able to find a new way to get across an old idea. It's this way of thinking that led me to create my children's abc book, *Hippopotomonstrosesquipedalian: Big Words for Little Kids*.

Herman Melville once said, "It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation." This philosophy drives my creation of children's books. I want to show them something new that will thrill and entertain them - something that will influence them to create something unique of their own.

**Follow Barry** for more information on what he is up to:

[Facebook.com/ Hippopotomonstrosesquipedalian](https://www.facebook.com/Hippopotomonstrosesquipedalian); [Instagram.com/@barryrodges](https://www.instagram.com/@barryrodges);

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**Mark your calendars for this year's Fort Worth BookFest**  
**Saturday | 10. 12. 2019**  
**11 AM – 4:30 PM**  
**Maddox - Muse Center**  
**330 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street**  
**Fort Worth, Texas**

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