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Author/Interview subject: Tony Robinson (TR)

Interviewed by: Janice Forsyth (JF)

Other speakers: Audience (AUD), Boy (Boy), Girl (Girl)

Example transcript

JF Hello there, a very warm welcome to Authors Live which is organised by the Scottish Book Trust in conjunction with BBC Scotland Learning and Creative Scotland. I'm Janice Forsyth, can you see me peering over my glasses? Hello, lovely to see you here today. I'm not alone, I'm joined by the most splendid bunch of pupils from some wonderful primary schools in Glasgow, Anderston Primary School, Lorne Street, Garscadden and several more, they're all gorgeous so I think you should give each other a wave. Yes, wave to all the children who are out watching this right across the UK. Aren't they a marvellous bunch and so well behaved. Now are you ready for our guest today? He is marvellous and you're in for such a treat, bags of energy. He's done so much, he still does so much, he's a writer, a historian, a performer, an actor, his past television credits are so long, I'm not going to go into them all now but they include Maid Marian and her Merry Men, Time Team, Blackadder. He's also written a book about the worse children's jobs in history and now he's here to share something very exciting, yes his Weird World of Wonders series of books with us. So please are ready to give the biggest cheer and welcome ever?

Aud Yeah!

JF You are, let's do it now, a huge welcome to the wonderful, the marvellous Tony Robinson.

Aud [Round of applause]

TR Did you hear anything? I just came in and there was this tiny little buzzing noise.

JF Yeah, it wasn't very loud was it?

TR It wasn't.

JF It's was just a tiny noise.

TR Shall we do it again? Yeah, I'll come in again and when I come in again could you say...I'll say hello and could you say hello Mr Tony Robinson how you doing? Okay? Ready, okay, just hold on one second.

JF And let's a huge, huge applause and cheering for our special guest today Mr Tony Robinson.

Aud [Round of applause and cheering]

TR Hello everybody.

Aud Hello Mr Robinson, how you doing?

TR I'm doing fine thank you very much, thank you for coming. I have the best, the most fantastic job in the whole world, half the time I'm an actor and I act on stages and I act on the radio and I act on television and I make documentaries. And I've got this series where I dig up loads of old stuff, really cruddy old stuff and I hack all the crude off it and I try and work out how old it is and what the people were like who used to use that stuff. Anyone know what that series is? Yeah?

Aud Time Team.

TR Time Team, yeah absolutely right. Yeah, so I make that series half the time and the other half of the time I'm a writer. What do I write about? I write about anything because I think that everything is weird and wonderful. I think you are weird and wonderful. I think that ceiling is weird and wonderful. I think the floor is weird and wonderful. I think teeth are weird and wonderful. I think dog cheese and frying pans are weird and wonderful. I think sleeping is weird and wonderful. I think dreaming is very weird and wonderful. And I think that humpty dumpty, pigeons and Chinese whispers are all weird and wonderful. In fact that is why I wrote my series of books called Tony Robinson's Weird World of Wonders about all these weird and wonderful things.

Now I know of course that there are boring ways of talking about things, for instance a lot of people think football is weird and wonderful but some people talk about in a really boring way. Other people think music is great but other people talk about it in this mind numbingly yawn inducing awful way but it's not the thing itself that's boring it's just their way of talking about it. So I have tried to write this whole load of books about all the subjects you could possibly think of in a way that is weird and wonderful.

And the first book that I wrote about was about an empire and it was called Tony Robinson's Weird World of Wonders Ancient Egypt and what is an empire because that's what Egypt was, it was an empire. Well suppose you've got a little country okay and it's just got a little army and some towns and that kind of stuff and they decide they want to invade another country. So they invade the next door country, [making fighting noises], they win and so now you've got two countries and just one army. And then they decide they want to invade a country over here, [making fighting noises] they invade that one, they win and now it's three countries all run and governed by one government and with one army. Then they invade another country over here, another one over here, no we give in don't fight us. Okay. Now another one over here, another one over here [making fighting noises] until eventually they've got say ten, 15 countries and a huge army and they're not just one little country anymore they are now an empire. And the first empire that I wrote about, Ancient Egypt, was ages ago, it was so long ago I can't demonstrate it on my own but maybe you could help me. What's your name?

Boy lash.

TR Very shy people here today. lash, can you stand up? Okay, how old are you lash?

Boy ...

TR Nine? He's nine. Okay, now keep standing, lash, he's nine years old. Now the Egyptian empire was much longer ago than when lash was born, it was longer ago than nine years. Can you stand up too? You're...keep standing, lash. How old are you?

Boy Nine.

TR Nine, okay. Nine plus nine equals?

Aud 18.

TR Okay, well the Egyptian empire was longer ago than that and you're the grandma, how old are you?

Girl Nine.

TR So three nines are?

Aud 27.

TR And you stand up and you are?

Girl Ten.

TR So three nines plus ten is?

Aud 37.

TR Three nines are 27 plus ten equals?

Aud 37.

TR 37 okay. And you stand up. How old are you?

Boy Ten.

TR And you stand up and you stand up and you stand up. No the Egyptian empire was longer ago than that and all you guys in the front row stand up, okay. No the Egyptian empire was longer ago than that. All this entire row stand up. No longer ago than that. You, you and you stand up. No, the Egyptian empire was longer than that. You, you and you stand up. And you and you and you stand up. Okay. Now everyone sit down except the person right on the very end here, everyone sit down except you and you are as old as the Egyptian empire. He is about 8743 years old, can you see how old he is? I'll just pull your glasses forward a bit, look he can hardly see at all. He's really crinkled and elderly. Thanks a lot, you can sit down. That is as long ago as the Egyptian empire. Now you might think given that the Egyptian empire was so long ago the Egyptians would have been a bit thick, a bit daft, a bit durrr but they weren't, if you think that you would be absolutely wrong. The Egyptians were brilliant, they were great at building roads, they were great at creating dams, they were great at building boats, made fantastic jewellery. But the thing that they were most best of all at was building huge buildings, they could build buildings that were even bigger than this studio here, massive buildings even bigger at the bottom than this. Except that those buildings got smaller and smaller as they rose up until eventually they were just tiny weenie little points right at the top. And those buildings were called, anybody?

Aud Pyramids.

TR Pyramids absolutely right. Now you can imagine these were the biggest buildings that anyone had ever built, they were so big and triangular that they looked like enormous pieces of Toblerone chocolate. And if somebody came from another country and they came there they went, huh oh look at that there great building that's bigger and more wonderful than a huge piece of Toblerone chocolate, that cannot have been human beings what made that, that must have been the gods.

But it wasn't the gods at all was it, it was just the Egyptians who wanted to impress everybody.

And how did they make these huge great buildings? Well I'm going to need some help in explaining that. Who would be prepared to help me? Okay. Can you go and stand over there and you and you two and you and you and you. Okay. Okay, they'll be plenty more time later. Okay, so you guys, oh we need one more. Right, you go on that end and you go on that end. You go and stand there, that's right. So how on earth did they build these pyramids? Well what I want you to do is I've given each of you a pretend shovel and I want you to dig in the sand and dig up a big rock. Okay, off you go, dig, dig, dig and lift up the big rock out of the sand and hold it above your heads. Now that's great but actually those rocks aren't big enough, can you get rid of them, can you just chuck them over into the audience? Oh I'm sorry I've flattened half the audience, never mind. Okay, can you dig a bigger stone out now, hold it above your heads. It's still not big enough. Those stones that they used to build the pyramids with each one was the size of 22 refrigerators, so get rid of those stones, chuck them away. Oh, call 999 because we've damaged most of the audience. Okay, now dig out a massive, massive, massive stone, hold it above your head, yeah that's about it...yeah that's good. Put them down very carefully. Now there is a problem about those stones which is that they are all knobbly, they're not kind of smooth, they look a bit like that. What is that?

Aud Potato.

TR And that's how those stones looked all knobbly. Now imagine if you try...if you got a potato there and you put another potato on top and another one and another one and another one and another one, eventually they would all come crashing down to the ground, you need something with smooth sides don't you? You need something with a side like that. So what they used to do in order to get that kind of side was you've each got a tiny little drill, a little hand drill like that, drill a hole in your stone, that's good. Okay, now get a little wooden wedge just about that big and stick it in the hole, now get a big hammer and whack your wedge, whack, whack, whack, whack and eventually what would happen was you'd hear a pinging sound and ping you've got a flat side. Okay, so turn over your stone, drill another little hole, put your wedge in, whack your wedge, whack, whack, whack, whack, ping. Okay, turn it on its end, drill a hole, whack your wedge, whack it, whack it, ping, turn it over again, drill another little hole. Drill another little hole, whack, whack, whack, ping and that's it. Until eventually they had got stones that looked like this, like a massive enormous, gigantic fat chip. And now you've got...when you've got enough of those you can start to build your pyramid.

Now the pyramid was going to be somewhere a long way away from the place where you got the stones from. And there was a big river running through the centre of Egypt. Anybody know its name?

Aud Nile.

TR The Nile, that's correct, the River Nile, that's right. And so you put all your stones on a boat, I'll be the front of the boat over there, you're the back of the boat. Okay, so we transport all our stones, follow me all the way down the River Nile, it's on water so we're all wobbling a bit from side to side, hold onto your stones, make sure they don't fall over the edge until we get to here. Okay, all come over to here. Now the pyramid is going to be over there and there would be a great big ramp of sand and earth leading up to it. Now I want you to carry a stone, come over to there and dump your stone down, thank you very much and you can go and sit down now. And you get yours and put it on top of hers, that's it on top and you on top of that one so it's getting higher now isn't it? Good, and you on top of that one, and you on top of that one, and you on top of that one. And you on top of that one. Really high, wait a minute. So now the pile of stones is about that high isn't it? So can you put your stone on top? Have a go. Did he do it?

Aud No.

TR No, take a big run up, come on, go right to the end here, all right, ready, I'll give you a hand. Ready, one, two, three, get it right up there, that's it, he's done it we've built a pyramid thank you very much, go and sit down.

Aud [round of applause]

TR Okay, so that's okay, we've built the pyramid but the question is what's it for? What do we put in it? Did they used to put dogs cheese and frying pans in it?

Aud No.

TR Did they used to put humpty dumpty, pigeons and Chinese whispers in it?

Aud No.

TR No they didn't. What was it that they put in?

Aud Mummies.

TR Mummies, absolutely right, they used to put in mummies but a mummy was like the king wasn't it, when the king was dead they used to wrap the mummy up. But how did they make the mummy? Alan can you come up here, Alan has got the instructions for making the mummy. If you stand there. Now what we need is the

oldest most desiccated ancient person possible here in order to be the mummy.
Oh here we've found one.

Aud [laugh].

TR Okay, so we've got a dead body over here, thank you very much. This is our dead body, can you see how totally dead she actually...that's it, very good, Okay, quiet please. Alan, what is the first thing we do to turn our dead body into a mummy?

Boy First cut open the body, take out all the sloppy bits and put them into special jars.

TR Okay, so we cut open the body, [making cutting noise] take out all the sloppy bits and can you hold the jar, have you got your jar there and there you are you've got all the sloppy bits. That's a fairly disgusting stage, dead mummy. Right, next thing?

Boy Then push a long metal hook up its nostrils and pull the brain out through its nose.

TR Okay, so I've got a long metal hook, I shove it up its nose and then what do I do when I've shoved it up its nose? Pull the brains out. Pull, pull, pull, pull, that's it, pull. That's it and here come the brains all out dribble, dribble, dribble. Next.

Boy Dry the body out with salt which sucks up all the moisture.

TR Okay, dry the body out with salt which sucks up all the moisture because we don't want a sloppy mummy do we? We don't want a floppy mummy we want one that's nice and dry like an enormous mummy flavoured Walkers crisp. Okay, so we cover the body with salt and then all the wet comes out of it. Next.

Boy Stuff the head and body with sawdust and padding.

TR Stuff the head and body with sawdust and padding [making a stuffing noise]. All done.

Boy Push the eyeballs back into the sockets and cover them with little pads.

TR Right, push the eyeballs back into their sockets, [making a squishing noise] cover them with little pads. Okay, there we go.

Boy Now paint eyes on two onions and put them over the pads.

TR Yeah, they really used to do this, they used to get two onions and they would paint eyeballs on them and then they would push them into the eye sockets, so

ping, looks like an eye doesn't it? Ping, that one looks like an eye too doesn't it? They're not eyes they're just onions but go on.

Boy Block up the nostrils with wax.

TR Block the nostrils up with wax. Yeah.

Boy Wrap the finger and toenails in metal sheets to stop from them from falling off.

TR Okay, yeah, I mean you don't want the fingernails and toenails dropping all over the floor do you, it will hurt you. So you wrap them up in wrapping, thank you very much, thanks for your help mummy and your toes, nice and shiny patent shoes. Okay, yeah?

Boy Finally wrap the body tightly in strips of cloth and put it in a coffin.

TR Okay, wrap the body up in strips of cloth and put it in a coffin and there you are the world's first ever Scottish mummy.

Aud [Cheering and clapping]

TR Okay, so that's the Egyptian empire done and dusted and when I'd finished writing about the Egyptian empire I thought I want to write about another empire but about one that wasn't nearly as long ago as the Egyptians. So I thought I would write about our empire, the British Empire and I'll show you how long ago that one was. Can you stand up again, up we get, and you stand up and you and you and you and you and you. Now that is as long ago as the British Empire. So you can see it was a long time ago but not nearly as long ago as the Egyptian empire at all. Now you sit down and you sit down and you sit down. That is as long ago as the British Empire ended, it's not really very long ago at all is it? Okay, and you all sit down. Thank you very much. Now what really puzzled me and why I wanted to write a book about the British Empire was I thought to myself how come we had an empire? Because if you look at our country on a map it's tiny, it's like a tiny little triangle with a tiny little rectangle next to it. How come we travelled all the way around the world in order to create an empire? And that was one of the big questions that I wanted to answer in Tony Robinson's Weird World of Wonders The British Empire. And I think you could help me explain this. Now there is a word on the other side of this cardboard and when I lift the cardboard up I would like you to say the word out loud, okay?

Aud Gold.

TR What was that word again?

Aud Gold.

TR That's right. Now I want you to say it every time I lift the card up like this.

Aud Gold.

TR But don't say it when I've got the card down, okay? So to all the people who are looking at this all over Britain this is the story of how little pimple Britain got such a huge empire. Before the British Empire existed maps of the world didn't tell you much, they showed the countries that sailors had visited but what lay beyond them was anyone's guess. But then ships were invented that were better and stronger than before and sailors started sailing further and further away from home. But what on earth was it that made them take the risk of sailing so far in stormy seas when they might be shipwrecked, drowned or eaten by cannibals? Were they insane? No. They had a very special reason, they were looking for something extremely valuable...

Aud Gold.

TR The kings and queens of England loved...

Aud Gold.

TR They couldn't get enough of it, which if you think about it is actually a bit weird. I mean what's so special about...

Aud Gold.

TR You can't cut it up and put it in a sandwich, you can't build a block of flats with it, you can't set fire to it when you're feeling a bit chilly and you can't make a decent weapon or a tool out of it because swords made out of...

Aud Gold.

TR ...tend to crumple up if you try and poke anyone with them. And a hammer made of...

Aud Gold.

TR ...is about as useful as a chocolate hot water bottle. But kings and queens loved the way...

Aud Gold.

TR ...sparkled. They used...

Aud Gold.

TR To make coins. They put...

Aud Gold.

TR ...in their crowns. They turned...

Aud Gold.

TR ...into jewellery and they bought things with it like iron which unlike...

Aud Gold.

TR ...is a very good metal for poking people with. In the 13th century an explorer called Marco Polo spent 24 years travelling to China and India, riding through deserts and over mountains to strange places dripping with silks, spices, ivory and lots and lots and lots of...

Aud Gold.

TR He said people in the east had so much...

Aud Gold.

TR ...that if you saw it you wouldn't be able to believe your eyes. He said there was an island called Chipango where the king lived in a palace made of...

Aud Gold.

TR The floors were...

Aud Gold.

TR The ceilings were...

Aud Gold.

TR Even the windows were...

Aud Gold.

TR Back in Europe lots of people read Marco Polo's book and thought to themselves imagine what you could do with all that...

Aud Gold.

TR So explorers were sent off to find sea route to bring back...

Aud Gold.

TR ...by the boat load. But the route was so long and complicated they kept bumping into islands and continents they never knew existed. And what did they do when they landed on them? They stuck a flag in the sand, claimed the land for their own country back home and started empires. And it was all because of...

Aud Gold.

TR What was it because of?

Aud Gold.

TR What did people want?

Aud Gold.

TR What's gold and shiny and worth a lot of money?

Aud Gold.

TR What do mice eat?

Aud Gold.

TR Mice don't eat gold. Mice do not eat gold. Anyway that was what I wrote about the British empire and when I'd finished doing that I thought to myself look I've written a load about empires now it's time to write about something completely different. So I decided to write Tony Robinson's Weird World of Wonders Inventions, because I think inventions are really cool. You'd never get new things if it wasn't for inventions. Some of them work brilliantly and some of them don't work very well at all. Like for instance about 130 years ago there was this guy who realised, and he was one of the first people to realise this, that rubber, which you used to get from trees on the other side of the world, was brilliant to stop rain coming in. So he made a cloak out of rubber and he would put his rubber cloak on and he would walk along and the rain would come down and he wouldn't get wet. Then he would come to a river, oh what am I going to do now I'll get wet? But he took off his cloak and in the collar of the cloak there was a little nozzle, you know like the ones that you get on a lilo? Yeah. And he would undo the stopper, he would blow it up until he got a little dingy, he would put the stopper back in, he would put it in the river, he would jump into it. Out of the inside jacket pocket he would produce two little oars and he would row himself across the river. When he got to the other side he would undo the stopper, all the air he

would squeeze out again, put the cloak back on and walk off. And that was called the Boat Cloak.

And there was another invention that was made about 50 years ago and this one was made in America, it was essentially a glove and you put on this glove, right, and there were teeth all the way down the inside of the first finger and there were more teeth all the way down the top of the thumb and you would get your burger and your fries and your shake and your barbecue sauce and you would put it in there like that and then you'd go chomp, chomp, chomp, chomp, chomp and you would catch all the mushy food in the other hand and then you would slurp the food down like that. And it was for people who were so lazy they couldn't even be bothered to chew their food and it was called the Tooth Glove.

And when I'd finished writing about all those inventions I thought okay, okay, okay, it is time to write some more books, this time I'll write about war. Now in some ways war is pretty exciting isn't it? Lots and lots of adventures, lots of people getting medals, war interesting. On the other hand war is pretty rubbish because wars kill you, wars blow your arms off, wars blow your legs off, wars blow your noses off. But I still wanted to write about wars because even though wars are so horrible if you can learn about why wars started in the past then maybe you can stop wars happening in the future. So I first of all I wrote about two massive wars, two wars that Britain took part in and they were in the last 100 years and the first one was called, yes...?

Aud World War One.

TR Correct. And the second one was called...?

Aud World War Two.

TR Absolutely right. Now the funny thing about those wars given what we've been talking about today is that they started because of empires. The Germans were really, really jealous that we Britons had got an empire and they didn't and so they thought that they would start grabbing some countries and they thought they would build themselves a big army and a massive navy and the British were looking on and the French were looking on and they said no, no please don't do this, please don't do this, please don't do this. And eventually they invaded Germany and they fought for about four horrible years during which millions of people died and in the end the British and the French and at the end of it the Americans came in and we won. But the Germans were left in a really horrible state, they'd got no money left because they'd spent it all on weapons, we took a load of their money as like a fine in order to punish them for starting the war in

the first place. So they were all absolutely skint. There were no jobs in Germany, nobody got much food in Germany and eventually about 15 years later a new leader arrived, he walked in from the next country, Austria, well he didn't actually walk he came in like that [marching]. And his name was...?

Aud Hitler.

TR Hitler, absolutely right and he said to the German people, if you will make me your leader I will make Germany the greatest country the world has ever known. I will turn it into a great empire. Now the problem was though even though all the Germans were going hooray, hooray, hooray, the fact was Hitler was a bit rubbishy barmaly, nuterly, weirdly bad. And when he used to speak to the German people his eyeballs would roll and his sweat would come pouring off his face and he would shake his arms and his legs about and everyone was really scared of him. And he would say, I will turn you German people into superheroes, you will all have blue eyes and you will all have blond hair and you will all have big muscles and you will rule the world for a thousand years. And they all went hooray, hooray, hooray, hooray. And he said and now we will do what we always do when we make an empire we will go into the next country. Ha ha now we have two countries and a bigger army. And the British and the French went oi sunshine pack it in. And Hitler said, no I will not pack nothing in, I will invade another country instead. And he invaded another country. Now I have three countries you only have two ha ha ha ha. And the English and the Scots and the Welsh and the Irish and the French said, listen sunshine if you don't pack it in we're going to come and clobber you. And Hitler went, you will clobber me, I don't think so, ha ha ha you are just babies I will invade another country instead. And he invaded another country. And now the British and the French said okay squire we're coming over to get you. Come in here if you think you're hard enough said Hitler. And the British and the French went into Europe and they started to fight the Germans, but this time the Germans won, they absolutely hammered the French and took over France. They actually hammered the British and our soldiers went racing back to Britain, oh no the English channel's in the way let's find some boats any boats will do and they left all their weapons behind. And now Hitler went ha ha ha because that's how mad crazy rulers go isn't it? Ha ha ha he went, I will now have a cunning plan, I will invade Britain, I will get all of my aeroplanes, I will fill them with bombs, I will fly over the British...I will drop my bombs on the British as they are such baby cowardly people they will give in. And that's what he did, he did that in September 1940, filled all his planes with bombs, he flew over to Britain, dropped his bombs on England, boom, boom, boom and then he said, now British peoples will you give in? And do you think the British people said yes of course we'll give in?

Aud No.

TR So what did the British people say?

Aud No!

TR Absolutely. So Hitler tried again, October 1940 he filled all his planes with bombs and dropped them on Britain. Now will you give in?

Aud No.

TR So November 1940 all the planes, all the bombs, boom, boom, boom. Will you give in now?

Aud No.

TR December 1940, all the planes, all the bombs, jingle bells, jingle bells, hello I am Father Christmas Hitler I have some presents for you called bombs! Boom, boom, boom, will you give in now?

Aud No.

TR January 1941, boom, boom, boom, give in?

Aud No!

TR February, give in now!

Aud No.

TR March, give, flippin, in!

Aud No.

TR April, please will you give in?

Aud No.

TR May 1940 I drop all the bombs but you will not play the game properly, you're supposed to give in, I waste all of my bombs, all of my aeroplanes, I'm not going to play anymore, I'm going to go off and I'm going to fight the Russians instead. And he did, he turned away from Britain and he started to fight the Russians. And the war went on for four horrible years until in 1944 on this very day the 6th of June, 59 years ago the Britons and the French and the New Zealanders and the Australians and the Americans all got together on the south coast of Britain and they sailed across the English Channel in order to attack the Germans and that day was called, does anybody know the answer to that, yeah?

Boy D-Day.

TR D-Day, well done. That was D-Day and it was 59 years ago today. So that was my story about the Second World War. Now before I go I'm just wondering do you guys remember about how the British Empire got started? I'm just wondering whether we might practice doing that again only this time 23 times faster. Do you reckon we can do that?

Aud Yeah.

TR Shall we have a go? All right. Are you ready? And it will be good if all the 25,000 people in their classrooms do this as well. Okay, are you ready, good luck everyone, good luck studio, good luck. Here we go. [Speaking very fast] Before the British Empire existed maps of the world didn't tell you much, they showed the countries that sailors had visited but what lay beyond them was anyone's guess. But then ships were invented that were better and stronger than before and sailors started sailing further and further away from home. But what on earth was it that made them take the risk of sailing so far in stormy seas when they might be shipwrecked, drowned or eaten by cannibals? Were they insane? No. They had a very special reason, they were looking for something extremely valuable...

Aud Gold.

TR The kings and queens of England loved...

Aud Gold.

TR They couldn't get enough...?

Aud Gold.

TR ...of it because if you think about it is actually a bit weird. I mean what's so special about

Aud Gold.

TR You can't put it in a sandwich, you can't build a block of flats with it, you can't set fire to it when you're feeling a bit chilly and you can't make a decent weapon or a tool out of it. Because swords made of...

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Aud Gold.

TR What was it because of?

Aud Gold.

TR What's bright and shiny?

Aud Gold.

TR What was gold and worth a lot of money?

Aud Gold.

TR What do mice eat?

Aud Cheese.

TR Cheese, well done. Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. Now...so that's my series Tony Robinson's Weird, Weird, Weird World of Wonders. World War Two is just out now and World War One is coming out in September. My ambition is to write a book about every single subject in the whole wide world, unfortunately that would take me 36,843 years so I'm not going to be able to do that. But hopefully by the time I'm too old and dodderly just like your mummy to write any more books hopefully by that time you guys will have started writing books about all the things that you think are really weird and wonderful. I sincerely hope that you do. See ya, bye.

Aud [Clapping]

JF Let's hear it for Tony Robinson huge applause ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls.

Aud [Clapping]

JF Whoa how great was that? You know I reckon Tony could fulfil his ambition to write a book about everything if he could write as fast as he can read. How good was that? Are you going to try that at school?

Aud Yeah.

JF I'll read this a little bit more slowly for you, just to say sadly that's just about it for today. Aww but guess what we will be back soon.

Aud Yay.

JF Can I hear you doing that wherever you are? Yes we can hear them can't we? Yeah, that's brilliant. We've had an amazing line up of authors over the last wee while and we hope very much that we'll be back with a super top array of authors after the summer holidays. Don't forget though in the meantime you can watch them all again, you can watch this one again at the website which is scottishbooktrust.com/authorslive you can download them there and all the free learning resources too, which I'm sure you'll be doing over the summer holidays won't you? Tony, we're not going to let him go just yet he will be taking part in a go meet session that's about 1:30 this afternoon and that's for any schools in Scotland that want to join in and find out even more about Tony and his fabulous books. So please do join him for that. Before we go though what do you think, shall we have an extra loud round of applause and cheering invite Tony back for that?

Aud Yeah.

JF Let's do that. Tony Robinson if he's still here, yes he's still here.

Aud [Round of Applause]

JF Bye bye, see you after the summer holidays, have a great time, bye bye.