**Jack Gantos**



Jack was born on 2nd July 1951 in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania. In 1st grade he was in the Bluebird reading group, which he later found out was for slow readers. His favourite game at the time was pretending his clothes were on fire and rolling down a hill to save himself! When in 6th grade, he read his sister’s diary and decided he could do better. He begged his mother to buy him a diary and he collected anecdotes by standing outside the teachers’ staffroom which he then used in his stories.

He was professor of creative writing and literature from 1978 to 1995. He now writes and does educational speaking.