

## Paul Tillery IV: Extended Biography

Paul Tillery IV is an author, artist, and educator. He is the creator of the children's character Thundercluck, the Viking chicken with the power of thunder.

Paul was born November 12, 1985 in Raleigh, NC. Three major memories from childhood have influenced his work in animation and children's literature:

- Paul has always loved to draw, and as a kid he especially loved looking at cartoons and illustrations to spark his creativity.
- Until third grade, Paul struggled with reading and viewed it as an intimidating chore. When he found the right stories (especially sci-fi and fantasy works by Bruce Coville), Paul started reading for fun. This began his lifelong love for books.
- At the age of two, Paul lost his mother to cancer. He grew up sensitive and was often told, "Boys aren't supposed to cry." This is a mentality he wants to push back against, so emotional honesty has become a recurring theme in his work.

Paul studied at the Savannah College of Art and Design, earning his Animation BFA at the Savannah campus, and his Animation MFA at SCAD-Atlanta. The award-winning animated short film *Thundercluck: Chicken of Thor* was Paul's MFA thesis project.

Paul briefly worked in Atlanta as an animator for commercial projects and mobile apps, and was then hired as a Professor of Animation at SCAD-Savannah. He signed a deal for two Thundercluck books with Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, and has now moved back to Raleigh to be close to family while focusing on the books.

Paul's first book (*THUNDERCLUCK! CHICKEN OF THOR*) came out in 2018, and the sequel (*THUNDERCUCK! CHICKEN OF THOR: RECIPE FOR REVENGE*) came out in 2019.

Paul continues to teach as an adjunct professor of computer arts, and he especially loves visiting elementary schools to give presentations on his books and inspirations. He is thankful for the works that positively influenced his childhood, and he strives to pay that forward with his own work today.