

CRAIG SIMPSON



Craig Simpson was born in the New Forest in 1962 and spent his childhood there and near Reading, Berkshire.

He went to Bristol University to study Veterinary Medicine and later switched to Science. When he left in 1984, he worked first in Cambridge and then Newbury, pursuing a career in the development of new medicines. In 1995 he returned to the New Forest, and in 2001 became an independent consultant in order to make time to fulfil an ambition – to write.

Craig has written three novels for Random House Children's Books; *Resistance*, *Special Operations: Dogfight*, and *Special Operations: Death Ray* (February 2009).

Resistance is set in occupied Norway during World War II. The sudden arrest of Marek's father by the Gestapo turns the boy's life upside down, and it's not long before he and his brother are on the run from the Nazis, forced to brave the harsh, uncompromising Norwegian wilderness. Saved from certain death by members of the Resistance, Marek and his brother are drawn into their clandestine world. A heart-stopping tale of action and adventure with unexpected twists and turns, our young hero quickly learns that resisting tyranny comes at a heavy price.

"...a genuine page-turner with its persuasive WWII setting – a tale of courage and ambition in the fight against the Nazi invader in war-time Norway. It grips from the off." (ETC Magazine).

The amazing adventures of flying-mad, teenage hero, Finn Gunnensen and his friends, Loki and Freya, are told in Craig's *Special Operations* series of books, aimed at children aged 11+. Inspired by the real world of the Special Operations Executive (SOE), a secret organisation that trained agents and sent them behind enemy lines, the series captures the jaw-dropping courage and ingenuity of wartime freedom fighters.

Carole Mansur writing in *The Telegraph* remarked that *Dogfight* was "reminiscent of Robert Westall's classic *The Machine Gunners*..."

In the *Primary Times Star Read column*, *Dogfight* was described as; 'Full of secret and double agents, this exciting, atmospheric story never loses pace and has many breathtaking moments that will have you on the edge of your seat – not for the faint-hearted!'

Dogfight is the first in a series and will be followed in February 2009 by *Special Operations: Death Ray*, an adventure inspired by the true story of the audacious theft of an entire Nazi radar installation from the French coast.

EVENTS

Craig is happy to visit schools and libraries in the UK.

He will speak to boys and girls age 9+ and is happy to speak to audiences from 10-200+ children depending on the format of the event.

Usually, Craig gives a talk about what inspired him to become a writer, illustrating his talk with true wartime stories about the heroes and heroines of the SOE and Resistance.

He also talks about becoming a writer, how he writes, and usually finishes up with a Q&A session and book signing. He can also run writing workshops for smaller groups if desired. The talk and signing usually lasts for 1-1.5 hours but can be tailored to suit your needs.

COSTS

Rates are negotiable depending on type of event arranged and distance travelled.

CONTACTS

If you would like to book an event please email Craig at: cs@lymwriter.orangehome.co.uk

PUBLICITY MATERIAL

The following material is available for events:

- Posters
 - Author Packs
- To request this material please contact: childrenspublicity@randomhouse.co.uk

BOOKS FOR SALE

If you would like to sell books at your event please contact Craig or, alternatively, your local bookshop who can provide you with copies on a sale or return basis.

LINKS

To find out more about Craig's books please visit the kids website: www.kidsatrandomhouse.co.uk

Other useful links:

- <http://www.societyofauthors.org/>
- <http://www.finngunnensen.co.uk>
- www.rbooks.co.uk

