

GARETH THOMPSON



THE AUTHOR

Gareth Thompson comes from northern England and is resident in Cumbria.

A former journalist and theatre critic, he has also worked for Oxfam, MENCAP and been involved in environmental action groups.

Gareth has written two teen novels for Random House Children's Books; *The Great Harlequin Grim* and *Sunshine to the Sunless*. His third book, *The Anarchist's Angel*, is published in February 2009. Along with his planned fourth offering, *Scarecrows and Skeletons*, the books form part of a quartet. Each is set in a different season, and all are based in south Cumbria. The aim is to offer a modern take on Lake District life, away from the tourist brochures, and to feature some of the region's more unusual landscapes.

The Great Harlequin Grim is about a boy called Glenn Jackson, who moves from riot-torn Burnley to a small Cumbrian village. By chance, Glenn hooks up with a rough-hewn farm labourer on the run from a shocking past. But their growing friendship takes a heartbreaking turn.

An exciting, raw read which is firmly rooting for the outsider -
Times Educational Supplement

A sobering, brittle and gut-wrenching tale... An incredible debut - **The Truth About Books**

Nominated for the Branford Boase Award

In *Sunshine to the Sunless*, Andrew Kindness witnesses a terrible tragedy on the shores of the Duddon estuary. Unable to help, he grows up haunted by his guilt, and the memory of this event.

When his granddad shows him the art of cross-breeding daffodils, Andrew finds solace in the beauty of flowers, but must keep his hobby a secret from Millom's streetwise gangs. That is, until first love intervenes...

Drawing together the romantic landscape of the poets, with the tensions of contemporary Cumbria, this beautifully written, understated novel is a compassionate avowal of the human capacity for hope in the face of despair – **The Guardian**

Don't be fooled into thinking this is just a kids' book: it's a riveting read for anyone – **Cumbria Life**

EVENTS

AUDIENCE

Gareth is happy to visit schools, libraries and reading groups in the UK and Ireland.

He will speak to young students and/or adults aged 13+ and is happy with audiences from 10-200, depending on the format of the event.

FORMAT

Gareth likes to accompany his readings with a PowerPoint presentation, featuring dramatic landscape shots connected to his books. In some venues this isn't always possible. He opens with a standard introductory talk, with some images, and then reads extracts from one or more of his novels.

The talk and signings last for 45 minutes to one hour. Gareth will talk about why he decided to be a writer and what inspires him.

COSTS

Can be negotiated depending on place and circumstance.

CONTACTS

If you would like to book an event with Gareth, please e-mail him on;

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In the North-West; Tony Higginson of Pritchard's Books handles many school events for me and others.
07914 636545



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 your local bookshop who can provide copies on a sale or return basis.

LINKS

<http://www.societyofauthors.org/>

www.rbooks.co.uk

<http://www.fcbg.org.uk/>

www.contactanauthor.co.uk

www.classactagency.co.uk

www.booktrust.org.uk

www.scatteredauthors.org