

JOHN DOUGHERTY



“I’ve programmed the Festival for nine years now... John is one of the very best authors for schools we’ve had.” - **Teresa Lowe, Glasgow West End Festival**

“Amazing... without a doubt one of the best author events that I have experienced” - **Tamara Linke, Tales on Moon Lane children’s Bookshop**

John Dougherty was born in Larne, Northern Ireland, but now lives in Gloucestershire. He has been - among other things - a volunteer residential social worker, a YMCA staff member, a machine operator and, for eleven years, a primary school teacher. He’s also come very close (but not quite close enough) to a recording contract, and once auditioned to present Disney Club (he made the final shortlist before they decided that - at 27 - he was too old). Now he writes full-time (aside from when he’s visiting schools to talk about his writing).

John’s books for Random House include **Zeus on the Loose** (shortlisted for the Branford Boase award) and its sequel **Zeus to the Rescue**; **Niteracy Hour** (shortlisted for the Nottingham Award and the Coventry Raring 2 Read award); **Jack Slater Monster Investigator** (shortlisted for the Ottakars – now Waterstones - Childrens Book Prize); and most recently **Bansi O’Hara and the Bloodline Prophecy**.

A new Jack Slater book will be published in 2009, and he is currently working on another Bansi O’Hara novel.

EVENTS

“A natural entertainer, with a guitar-strumming comedy routine that would go down well on kids’ tv” - **Stroud News & Journal**

“Guaranteed to make you laugh” - **The Wellwisher Children’s Bookshop**

A typical school visit from John Dougherty is full of fun. The importance of reading for pleasure is one of John’s main focuses, and his aim is to help children make the connection between books and enjoyment.

AUDIENCE

John is happy to visit primary schools and libraries in the UK, Ireland, and even further afield. For school visits he recommends the following:

- 1 hour with upper KS2 (age 9-11)
- 1 hour with lower KS2 (7-9)
- 30-40 minutes with KS1 (5-7)
- 20 minutes with FS (3-5)

He is happy to speak to groups of practically any size, large or small.

FORMAT

Sessions involve a strong Q&A element, so that the children feel involved from the start and have the chance to find out what they want to know. John usually starts with a reading and then opens the floor to questions, the answers to which lead into insight, comedy, poems, further readings and even a song or two.

For school visits a book signing is always offered, usually at the end of the day, and a short end-of-day assembly may also be arranged should the school wish to invite parents to take part in the day.

COSTS

John charges the Society of Authors’ recommended minimum fee of £300 plus expenses and VAT.

CONTACTS

If you would like to book an event with John please e mail him on:
johndougherty@visitingauthor.com

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

John can usually supply books for the end-of-day sale and signing session. Children who already own copies of John’s books are of course very welcome to bring them to be signed.

LINKS

To find out more about John Dougherty and his books you can visit his website:

www.visitingauthor.com

To find out more about John’s books please visit the kids website:

www.kidsatrandomhouse.co.uk

Other useful links:

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

www.rbooks.co.uk

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

www.contactanauthor.co.uk

www.classagency.co.uk

www.booktrust.org.uk

www.scatteredauthors.org

