

KEITH GRAY



Keith was born and brought up in Grimsby. He was definitely the best tree-climber at primary school, but probably one of the worst readers. He avoided books thinking they were a chore and was labeled a 'reluctant reader'. It wasn't until he was 12 when he finally realized tree-climbing wasn't going to turn out to be a proper job, no matter how good he was at it. But it was also around this time when a friend gave him a copy of *The Machine Gunners* by Robert Westall. This was the book that helped Keith discover a love of reading, and not so long after, for writing too. His first book *Creepers* was published when he was 24.

He has since gone on to win the Angus Book Award and the silver medal in the Smarties Prize. He has twice been shortlisted for the Guardian Fiction Prize and was shortlisted for the Booktrust Teen Prize and the Scottish Arts Council Book Award. Rave reviews about his writing have appeared in every broadsheet.

Keith has been a judge for the Blue Peter Book Award, the Guardian Fiction Prize, the Booktrust Teen Prize and the Nestle Children's Book Award. He regularly reviews teenage fiction for both the Guardian and the Scotsman. In 2008 he was the first ever Virtual Writer in Residence for Scottish

Book Trust; commissioning and editing short stories by his favourite writers and producing online creative writing videos for young writers everywhere.

He claims he is still writing books for the reluctant boy reader he once was.

EVENTS

AUDIENCE

Keith is happy to visit schools and libraries across the UK and Ireland.

He will speak to boys and girls age 12+ and is happy to speak to audiences from 10-200 children depending on the format of the event.

FORMAT

Keith will either do a talk/reading and signing event which can be to a larger audience or a writing workshop to a smaller group of up to 20.

The talk and signing lasts for approximately 1 hour. Keith's aim is to encourage readers and writers rather than to educate them. Keith's informal, humorous and enthusiastic approach has won over audiences at all the major book festivals as well as in schools and libraries across the UK. He has also worked with young offenders. The audience is always left with ideas of what books to read next and how to go about their own creative writing.

The writing workshop lasts for between 90 minutes and 2 hours. Again Keith's session is aimed at enthusing young writers, proving to them that everyone is capable of telling a good story, and giving hints and tips on how to improve their creative writing in the classroom or for fun at home.

Keith is also happy to talk to adult audiences about writing for teens. He has run several CPD sessions for teachers tackling the subject of how to improve their students' creative writing.

COSTS

Keith charges £200 for half a day (maximum of 2 sessions) and £300 for a full day (3 sessions) plus travel expenses. These rates can be negotiated depending on circumstances.

CONTACTS

If you would like to book an event with Keith please e mail him on keithg@fsmail.net

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 will can provide you with copies on a sale or return basis.

LINKS

To find out more about Keith Gray and his books you can visit his website:
www.keith-gray.com

or Scottish Book Trust's website:
www.scottishbooktrust.com

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

Other useful links:
www.scottishbooktrust.com
www.rbooks.co.uk
<http://www.fcbg.org.uk/>
www.booktrust.org.uk