

PETE JOHNSON



When Pete Johnson was eight, he wrote a fan letter to Dodie Smith, author of 'The Hundred and One Dalmatians.' The two would go on exchanging letters for the next twenty years and she was the first person who inspired Pete to become a writer.

After studying English at Birmingham University, Pete worked as a film critic for local newspapers and Radio One. And while working as a teacher at a secondary school, Pete tried writing stories about his pupils' lives. Pete gained some valuable insights by inviting the pupils to comment on his writing. 'They helped make me tough on my writing,' says Pete. 'I learnt that bad books – and clichés arise when a writer doesn't know enough about his world.'

Pete has now written over thirty books which have been translated into twenty-two languages. His books have won a number of prizes, most recently: The Sheffield Book Award and The Leicester Best Book Award in 2007 both for 'Help! I'm A Classroom Gambler.' Another of his books, 'The Bad Spy's Guide,' was also shortlisted in 2007 for The Blue Peter Award (Book, I couldn't Put Down Category)

Pete's most popular titles have included, 'hair-raising ghost stories,' (The Bookseller) such as 'The Ghost Dog' and 'The Frighteners,' and comedies featuring 'the writer's usual observant wit and sparkingly fitting dialogue (Riveting Reads) such as 'How to Train Your Parents,' and 'How to Get Famous.'

Pete's books have also earned praise for the way they, 'vividly tap into children's lives now,' (The Times) dealing with such themes as fear and bereavement and bullying in 'Avenger' and Traitor – two of his most widely used books in schools.

EVENTS

AUDIENCE

Pete would be prepared to travel approximately 2 hours from home, anywhere in the U.K. Visits involving overnight stays can also be considered for special events.

He is happy to speak to boys and girls aged 8 – 13. Audience size from 30 – 200, depending on the format of the event. He also speaks to teachers, librarians and parents – and has done events for a mixed audience of children and parents. Pete is a regular speaker at conferences.

FORMAT

Pete does a lively, interactive talk, followed by a question and answer session and a book signing. He talks about how he gets his ideas, reads extracts from books and gives some writing tips.

He can also do a presentation around key titles, such as 'The Ghost Dog,' 'Traitor,' 'Avenger.' Here, he highlights some of the book's themes – and also show how this story can be used to stimulate creative work. Sometimes, for instance, Pete's, 'The Ghost Dog' session will also be used to introduce a scary story project.

Pete is also often invited to open new libraries – and talk to adults, as well as children.

COSTS

£300.00 (maximum 3 sessions a day)
£200.00 (maximum 2 sessions a day)

CONTACTS

Email:
enquiries@petejohnsonauthor.com
Or contact:
www.kidsatrandomhouse.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

Pete does not bring his own books for sale. Local bookshop will provide.

LINKS

To find out more about Pete and his books, you can visit his website on www.petejohnsonauthor.com

To find out more about Pete'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/>
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