



John Larkin

Author

John Larkin began life as a professional soccer player but was forced to retire at twenty-one due to a serious knee injury and an even more serious bout of apathy. Disillusioned and heartbroken, he backpacked around Europe for a year, and was bitten by the writing bug while sitting in a café in Paris reading the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and sipping an outrageously expensive cup of coffee.

John's books for young adults include his latest release *The Pause* (winner of the Queensland Literary Awards Griffith University Young Adult Book Award 2015), as well as *Shadow Girl* (winner of the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards Prize for Writing for Young Adults 2012); *Goon Town*; *Spaghetti Legs*, *Pizza Features* and *Lasagne Brain* (the pasta trilogy); *Ghost Byte*; *Growing Payne*; *Nostradamus*; *Instant Noodles*; and the *Western Wildcats* series. His books for younger readers include *Horse Girl*, *Horse Girl Rides Again*, *Dog Boy* and *Harry Highpants and the Salivating Beast*. He has also released a Generation X novel entitled *Deja Vu* and a collection of short stories, *Bite Me!*

Talks: Since the publication of his hugely successful first novel *Spaghetti Legs* in 1993, John has written over twenty-two books for children, teens and adults. He is also a sought-after guest speaker for schools with his stand-up comedy show about the creative process called 'You'll be Laughing on the Other Side of Your Face in a Minute'. His talks are based on how to take the simple things in life and how to turn them into stories.

Workshops: John has a B.A. in English literature, an M.A. in Creative Writing, he is also working towards completing his PhD in the process of adaptation. As a primary trained school teacher John also conducts engaging workshops that completely demystify the process of writing and is also available for Writer in Residence stints and teacher professional development lectures.

Feedback for John Larkin

John Larkin is not only a wonderful writer, but also an engaging and very funny presenter. As the guest speaker at our annual Student Writers' Festival this year, John had parents in tears of laughter and students wide-eyed as he shared the inspiration for his work and encouraged our young writers to keep telling their stories. We were also impressed that despite the late hour, John took the time to chat with audience members and pose for many photos. We can't recommend him enough.

Glenmore Park High School, NSW

John spoke to our Years 7 and 8 group about creativity and writing and his humour had students and staff in stitches. John had the group engaged from the outset and the gentle message throughout his talk was about liking and caring about yourself and your friends. John's presentation was a poignant message well communicated and always entertaining.

Hills Grammar School, NSW

Suitability: Years 3 – 12.



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Feedback for John Larkin

Our boys sat enthralled and were actively engaged; laughing and listening intently. John spoke about his family and career, encouraging our boys to think creatively about their futures and the myriad of possibilities that lie ahead of them.

In the writing workshops, John conducted a variety of creative and lateral thinking activities as the foundation for great writing. Overall, the day was a success and our students benefitted from working with John.

Suzanne Flavin, Teacher Librarian, Parkdale Secondary College, VIC

Just writing to let you know how thoroughly we enjoyed John's visit for book week! Children from both sessions (3 & 4 and 5 & 6) were excited and inspired by his stories, which combined just the right amount of humour and humanity to bring a smile to the teachers' faces as well. He is a talented speaker who understands children (and how to present himself to them) very well. We all look forward to hearing from him again soon!

Melissa Johnson, Teacher Librarian, Currans Hill Public School, NSW

John Larkin spoke with passion and injected enthusiasm into every pore of every child. He entertained, amused and connected with the students, challenging them to read, be true to themselves and follow their dreams. In workshop groups, he explicitly taught the children how to write and drew out amazing pieces of writing from within them. Teachers and students alike left inspired and hugely impressed.

Sydney Grammar Prep School St Ives, NSW

John Larkin's talks at Barker opened the students' minds to potential of the written word and of course the fascinating life of a professional writer. His witty delivery kept the students enthralled and able to learn from his experience. We would recommend him to any school wishing to hear an entertaining presentation about the art of writing.

Barker College

John's visit to our school was both inspirational and practical, he first of all held Year 9 enthralled for an hour, then workshopped creative writing with some of our gifted and talented students. A day packed with ideas, laughter, stories of growing up and great strategies for writing.

Cherrybrook Technical High School

We here at Pelaw Main Public School thoroughly enjoyed his talk. John had a great rapport with the students and was wonderful in his approach to reading, especially for the boys. John was extremely entertaining and funny as he delivered his message that reading and writing is a fun and enjoyable thing to do at all ages.

Pelaw Main Public School



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