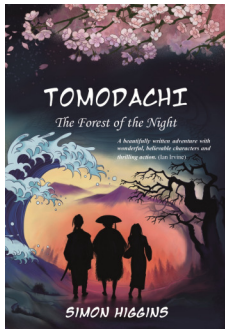


Simon Higgins Author



Simon Higgins was in law enforcement; as a police officer, prosecutor and finally as a licensed private investigator. He's travelled extensively throughout Asia, especially Japan, competing three times there in the world titles of a martial art. He now lives in China.

His published works include crime thrillers, adventure and speculative fiction, and are read by students from the final years of primary school through to year 12 and beyond. His first novel *Doctor Id* and his best-seller *Thunderfish* were CBC Notable Books of the Year.

Simon was been shortlisted for the Aurealis and Ned Kelly Awards and has won a Fellowship of Australian Writers National Literary Award. Several of his novels are studied as class texts throughout Australia or appear as excerpts in English textbooks. His work is published internationally, and he loves to speak and teach!



His *Tomodachi* and *Moonshadow* novels are ideal curriculum texts for Asian/Indigenous culture studies, with free teachers' notes available on Simon's website at www.simonhiggins.net

Talks:

Meet the Author:

A lively, inspirational blend of personal adventure stories and creative writing tips. Simon uses animations, images and great anecdotes to engage students and inspire research, and can even give a dazzling (and safe) martial arts demonstration related to his work.

Japanese or Chinese Culture & Language Studies Presentations:

Simon was an Ambassador for Asia Literacy with the Australian government's Asia Education Foundation and received an Endeavour Award grant to study in China. His presentation includes Japanese or Chinese customs, history and language. For students of Japan he can also include a demonstration of the beautiful, traditional sword art of laido as practiced by samurai warriors. An ideal speaker for LOTE, history or cultural studies classes, he shares fascinating anecdotes from time spent among samurai descendants who still honour their romantic heritage and/or adventures in remote parts of China.

Writing Workshops – for juniors and seniors:

The Art of Openings:

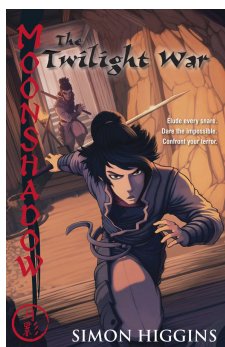
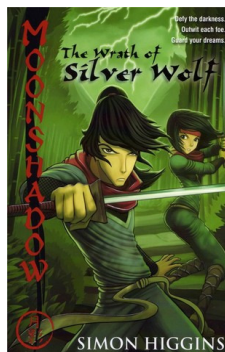
Powerful techniques for starting a story that snares and intrigues while also foreshadowing the plot. Students are guided to create their own high-level 10 sentence story opening.

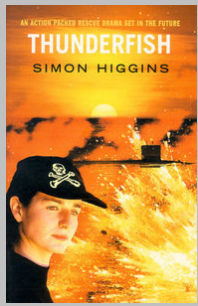
Secrets of Short Story Writing:

Ideal skills for English, NAPLAN and curriculum exam short story writing. Simon covers Having a Road Map, Point of View, Scene Setting and Hooks, Show, Don't Tell, and Characterization.

CSI Made Easy Workshop (for crime, mystery or legal studies students):

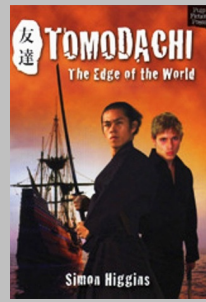
Simon explains crime scene investigation and demonstrates simplified CSI techniques like tape lifting (for hairs and fibres on a carpet or floor) and fingerprinting. The school needs a small amount of easily obtainable equipment: talcum powder, broad one-sided sticky tape, black cardboard, inexpensive magnifying glasses. Students can take home their fingerprint, or display it in the library.





FEEDBACK

for Simon's talks and workshops



Absolutely brilliant – Fantastic, very professional presentation. I was very impressed with the depth of knowledge he displayed to the students in a very inspiring and absorbing style, keeping students with eyes wide open and mouths gaping. The presentation worked really well for our Studies of Asia focus. His stories evoked passion and excellent research in subject matter. I absolutely loved it and have talked about it in conversation with friends and in the classroom many times since.

Kingscote School, Kangaroo Island, SA

Absolute adulation. Do I need to say more?! Thanks again for a terrific author visit.

Wangaratta HS, VIC

He had the students enthralled, it was a delight to see the students so engaged and connected with the speaker. We had to cut short the question session, students wanted to keep the dialogue going. And most importantly of all, students came back to the library to borrow his books!

Caulfield Grammar School Wheelers Hill Campus, VIC

An excellent, entertaining session. Great fun, well planned and carried out.

St Michael's Collegiate, TAS

Fantastic! Students immediately came to the library to borrow his books saying, "Get him back!" Glad you talked us into this wonderful guy.

Karabar HS, NSW

Absolutely brilliant speaker. A very informative presentation and a great performance.

Wesley College, VIC

His workshops were both practical and engrossing. Simon was very comfortable and professional with students and staff. We are looking forward to his return.

St Peter's Lutheran College, QLD

Teachers thought he was "fabulous", "terrific". He successfully engaged the boys and they are motivated to read his books.

Ivanhoe Grammar, VIC

Students were riveted! They laughed and were entranced – Simon really held their attention. I would like to make a booking for Year 9 again next year.

Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, VIC

Once again, it's a pleasure to have Simon working with our students. His ideas for developing plot and character are constructive and easily utilised by students. We look forward to his next visit.

Iona College, QLD

Nothing was too much trouble for Simon. As the week progressed from talks to smaller workshops, the students became very involved in the writing process...seeing Simon at every opportunity to ask questions and have their work assessed.

All Souls St Gabriel's QLD

Simon was here for his fourth Author In Residence program. He is really easy to work with and, through his efforts, our students produce some excellent work in the course of the week.

Kingaroy SHS, QLD December 2003 (Simon did his *eleventh* annual AIR at Kingaroy in 2011!)

Wonderful – A very successful and inspiring week. Outstanding.

Bialik College, VIC

Students were spell bound and attentive throughout. Their feedback after the presentation was consistently enthusiastic and positive. A wonderful experience for all students.

Xavier Catholic College, NSW

Several students came up to me after the performance to say how much they enjoyed the session and to thank me for bringing Simon to our school. Definitely the best visiting author we've had in our school in a long time.

Wynyard HS, TAS

Simon is so flexible, talking to the students in an appropriate and interesting way, discussing with staff beforehand their particular expectations for the session and addressing these expectations with the students. He is particularly accessible to students, spending break times casually chatting with and encouraging them.

AB Patterson College, QLD

Simon was absolutely fantastic - he had the audience spellbound. 180 Year 9 boys after lunch is a tough gig – Simon did this with ease.

Marcellin College, VIC