

The History Hunter

Breathing Life into Legends

with Author Mark Greenwood



The History Hunter

Mark Greenwood's presentations for secondary students focus on English and History and provide ideas and strategies to enhance creativity. Students become involved in the process of research and writing, from initial idea and development of story line, through to the stages involved for publication.

Put it in Writing – Learn how to breathe life into characters and events, find your unique voice, and develop original ideas. From the spark of a story, through the stages to publication, award winning author Mark Greenwood will share tips and secrets to imaginative storytelling. Hone your creative skills and gain confidence to put your story in writing.

Finding the heart of a Story – Often the heart of a story is discovered in the research process and journeys of discovery that balance creative interpretation with historical authenticity. Discover how Mark captures the heart of a story and weaves it into words.



AREAS OF FOCUS IN THE HISTORY HUNTER PRESENTATIONS

SETTINGS Traveling to the setting Mark is writing about, where historical events occurred, is his favourite part of bringing history to life. These journeys of discovery help balance creative interpretation with historical authenticity.

CHARACTERS Characters we can see in our 'mind's eye' aren't created with the snap of a finger. They develop over many hours, days, weeks, months or years spent together. Characters come to life when they are motivated by a goal. A story develops when we find out where their journey takes them and what challenges or obstacles they might face.

THE SPARK Mark's writing is occupied with well-known and little-known slices of history. The initial spark that inspires to write can be generated by a setting or a photograph that teases the imagination; a map; or a memory. Artifacts also connect to history - a nugget of gold, a relic of war, a shipwreck coin, a bushranger's bloodstained sash.

THE GOAL The goal of research isn't just to gather documents and collect information. These are the raw materials of history. History is not an exact science. There is so much we simply do not know. Research leads writers to draw conclusions and make objective interpretations. The goal is to use the research to tell a GREAT story.

RULES FOR RESEARCH

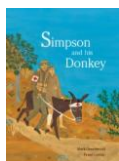
Find a subject you care about.
Search for clues. Analyze evidence. Enjoy the hunt.
Be curious. Be patient. Be persistent.
Find many sources of information.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH In our research we can use *primary sources* – the original documents. *Secondary sources* are the writings of other curious people who have shared our passion for the subject. There are many places to hunt for information.



THE PERFORMER

Mark Greenwood is an author with a passion for history. His award winning books have been honoured internationally. He has twice received the West Australian Premier's Award for *The Legend of Lasseter's Reef* and *The Legend of Moondyne Joe*. Other titles include *Ned Kelly and the Green Sash*, *Midnight - the story of a light horse* and *Simpson and His Donkey*, a CBCA Honour Book and USBY Outstanding International Book. *The Greatest Liar on Earth* was followed up by *The Mayflower* and *Jandamarra*, illustrated by Terry Denton, shortlisted for the CBCA Eve Pownall Award, the NSW Premier's Literary Award for Children's Literature and the *West Australian Young Readers' Book Award*. Mark's other books with Terry include *Boomerang and Bat*, a CBCA Notable Book and their new collaboration, *Moonwalkers* which celebrates the Apollo 11 moon landing – and Australia's role in one of humanity's greatest achievements.



Mark and his wife, illustrator Frané Lessac, make books focusing on Australian history and understanding diversity: *Drummer Boy of John John*, *Magic Boomerang*, *Outback Adventure* and *Our Big Island*. Mark's chapter book series delves into Australia's most baffling *History Mysteries*. His picture book, *The Happiness Box*, is a tribute to the power of books to transcend circumstances and offer hope and happiness, and was shortlisted for the 2019 CBCA Eve Pownall Award. Mark's exciting presentations have been enjoyed by schools and libraries throughout the world. For more information refer to Mark's website: www.markgreenwood.com.au

Curriculum links: *English* – explores country, place, identity; *History* – explores the role of significant people; *HSIE* – importance of past and present people; *Drama* – watch and listen as an active participant.

DURATION: 50 minutes with Q&A **SUITABILITY:** Years 3-12 **COST:** \$6.00 per student +GST (MINIMUM 120 students)

Performance Requirements: A table, data projector or smartboard, and a cleared area to set up for all sessions



BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES: Nexus Arts

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Feedback for Mark Greenwood

"Thank you so much for the amazing day of presentations to our Year 7 and 8 students!

Your stories truly captivated and fascinated them, especially the boys, who have told me since how much they enjoyed your visit.

It's clear you made an impact - they have been diving into your books to learn more.

Ballajura Community College really appreciates the time, energy, and enthusiasm you brought to the day.

It was an inspiring experience, not only for our students but also for the staff who were present (and are still raving about it!)."

Kim Forrester, Library Officer, Ballajura Community College, WA

"I have been booking Mark Greenwood every year for over 14 years at different schools in Adelaide. His connection with the students is extraordinary. They are totally engaged and drawn to him, and surround him to ask questions and talk – even after the lunch bell goes!"

Karla Aloj, Riverbanks College, SA

"Mark has an absolute gift for engaging audiences of a wide age range. He has a unique way of evoking the students' senses, imaginations and emotions. Mark is able to provoke students into higher level thinking, outside the box. He is warm, amusing, approachable, entertaining and able to teach and evoke interest in a most unusual way. He instils in his listeners a desire to know more about our history; he presents history in an engaging way, creating a thirst for knowledge."

Anneliese Lucido, home school parent from an after school workshop at Literature Centre

"Mark was a fabulous presenter – we had quite a large age range in one session and he presented on a Friday afternoon after a very busy day (and week) of Book Week activities, so not an easy session! I was so impressed at how he captured and held the students' attention, and have received feedback from several teachers on how engaging his session was and what a fabulous storyteller he is. In fact, we had some students follow me down to the Library so they could immediately borrow Mark's 'History Mystery' books and find the clues he referred to in his presentation."

Gill Gratton, Trinity Grammar School, Summer Hill NSW

"The students were sitting spellbound on the edges of their seats. The teachers confirmed it was 'the best literary performer' they had encountered in many years. No small feat, indeed!"

Kate Anderson, St Columba's School, Kedron QLD

"Staff and students alike were very impressed. A very engaging talk and the students were very interested."

Josephine Simpson, Clayfield College, QLD