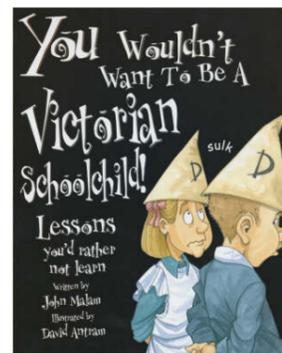


Author Reading Champion Profile

John Malam
Author



John Malam is a children's non-fiction author who uses his love for history and archaeology as the basis for much of his work. His background of working in museums has connected him to the storytelling aspect of history and he now dedicates himself to writing books that will captivate children. He writes informational books about topics ranging from dinosaurs and ancient civilisations to art and social history.

Interview

Who inspired you to become a reader?

It definitely began with the teachers at my primary school. At senior school I learned that if I didn't enjoy a book, then I could just put it down and pick another. It's no good forcing yourself to read a book you're not enjoying.

What is it about reading that you enjoy?

I read for my own entertainment and education. I also like to read out loud, usually to my children, but sometimes to myself. When I read fiction I escape into an invented world, but when I read non-fiction the adventure takes place in the real world.

When and where do you read?

I do most of my reading at home in the daytime, when I'm researching and writing books. In the evening, when I've got time to read for pleasure, I read a mixture of fiction and non-fiction – usually before bed. I've got two children and I read to them at their bedtime.

What are your top favourite reads of all time?

1. *The Silver Sword* by Ian Serraillier. A classic story about children in World War II.
2. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon. A life-affirming story of a talented but troubled teenager.
3. *The Man in the Ice* by Konrad Spindler. Narrative non-fiction, describing the discovery and examination of a 5,300-year-old frozen body found in the Alps in 1991.
4. *The Book of General Ignorance* by John Lloyd and John Mitchinson. The book of the BBC2 series *QI*. I thought I had a pretty good general knowledge until I read this.

How would you encourage boys and young men to read?

Read what you want to, when you want to, and where you want to. Join your local library and use it – it's free (we don't get much for free these days!). Make friends with the library staff, who will help you find books that might be just what you're after – from bestselling fiction to car manuals, poetry to cookbooks. Find out if there's a reading group in your area. It's a great way to share a book over a chat and a cuppa.