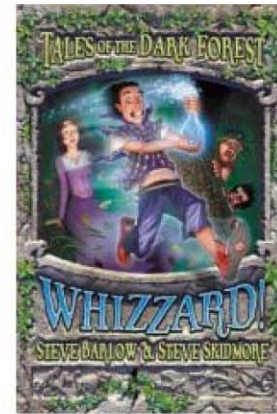


## Author Reading Champion profile



### “The Two Steves” Steve Skidmore & Steve Barlow Authors

Steve Skidmore and Steve Barlow are children and young adult writers known as “The Two Steves.” Their partnership began whilst still in school in 1987. Their first published work was a collection of three short plays called *Paper Tigers*. They went on to write hit book series such as *The Outnet Series*, *Dark Forest* comic fantasies, *Mad Myth Series*, and the *Vernon Bright Series*. Together they have also done freelance editing for various projects. The Two Steves were nominated as Reading Champions by Karen Hallewell of the Wellwisher bookshop in Wiltshire. Karen says “ They have visited over 25 schools in our area alone in the past academic year and enthused over a thousand children with their performances.”

Find out more about The Two Steves' books and how to arrange a visit to your school at:  
[www.the2steves.net/homepage.htm](http://www.the2steves.net/homepage.htm).

#### Interview

**Can you name any books that particularly inspired you as a child and would you recommend them to today’s young readers?**

**Steve S:** I loved exciting adventure stories or comedy. *Biggles*, the *Molesworth* books, Sherlock Holmes and lots of books about football and cricket! Winnie the Pooh is still one of my favourite books - I'd recommend it to everyone! Other books I'd recommend? Those by Steve Barlow and myself! There's lots of other great books out there to read!

**Steve B:** *The Sword in the Stone* by T H White: once I'd read that, I read the other books in *The Once and Future King* sequence. I also loved Narnia, Alan Garner's books and - of course - Tolkien. Any books I would recommend? Where do I start? The two Steves, obviously. Anthony Horowitz. Eoin Colfer. Maurice Gleitzman. Anne Fine. There's so much!

**Steve S:** Reading gives knowledge and knowledge leads to power - the power to be able to make decisions about your life and make informed choices. It also enables people to understand other cultures/religions/people and the world we live in. That's one heck of a good reason! Reading is ESSENTIAL!

**Steve B:** Kurt Vonnegut says, "People who can read and write are miracles, and entitle us to suspect that we may be civilized after all. (Reading) is the most profound and effective form of meditation practiced on this planet by reading well, (we) can think the thoughts of the wisest and most interesting human minds throughout all history when (readers) meditate, they do it with the thoughts of angels."