

Alan James Brown

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Picture books:

Humbugs, Alan Brown, illustrated by Adrian Reynolds, published by Hodder. ISBN 034070960X (HB), 0340709618 (PB). 4 to 6 years. Simon grows flowers for the bees, and the family feast on the honey.

Hoot and Holler, Alan Brown, illustrated by Rimantas Rolia published by Hutchinson. ISBN 0091768586 (HB), 0099408988 (PB). 4-6 years. Two owls lost in the Great Wood learn to express their true feelings for each other.

I Am a Dog, Alan Brown, illustrated by Jonathan Allen, published by Red Fox. ISBN 0099413272 (PB). 5 to 7 years. Is there any cure for a boy who pretends to be a dog?

Windhover, Alan Brown, illustrated by Christian Birmingham, published by Collins. ISBN 0001982044 (HB), 0006646131 (PB). 5-7 years. The adventures of a kestrel chick growing up in a nest in a school.

Nikki and the Rocking Horse, Alan Brown, illustrated by Peter Utton, published by Collins. ISBN 0001981269 (HB), 0006645178 (PB). 5-7 years old. Nikki wants a rocking horse, and Mum makes her one.

Old Hushwing, Alan Brown, illustrated by Angelo Rinaldi, published by Collins. ISBN 0001982761 (HB), 0006646492 (PB). 5-7 years. When the builders come, Billy finds a new home for a barn owl.

The Dreaming Tree, Alan Brown, illustrated by Claire Fletcher, published by Collins. ISBN 0001983210 (HB), 000664676X (PB). 5-7 years. Can Erica save her dreaming tree when the road is widened? Follow her through all four seasons of the year.

Turtle's Song, Alan Brown, illustrated by Kim Michelle Toft, published by Queensland University Press. ISBN 0702231533 (HB), 070223219X (PB). 6-9 years. The poetic story of a green turtle's precarious life. Winner of two book awards.

Billy the Hero, Alan Brown, illustrated by Chris Mould, published by Oxford University Press. ISBN 0198385196. Challenged readers of 9+ years. Billy wants to be a hero, but what did Mum ask him to do?

Story books/novels:

The Incredible Journey of Walter Rat, Alan Brown, an illustrated story published by Hodder. ISBN 0340727500. 6-9 years. The adventures of a water rat travelling down river to the sea.

King of the Dark Tower, Alan Brown, a Story Book short novel published by Hodder. ISBN 0340667338. 8 years + Based on the folk story in which Rowland rescues his sister Helen from the King of the Elves.

A Dog Of My Own, Alan Brown, a Story Book short novel published by Hodder. ISBN 0340686588. 8 years + Tom wants a puppy, gets one and nearly loses it.

Sword and Sorcery, Alan Brown, a novel for children published by Hodder. ISBN 0340698063. 11 years + Art battles against his enemies in a world where Albion exists only as islands in the ocean. Based on Arthurian and Norse legends.

Michael and the Monkey King, Alan James Brown, a novel for children published by Lulu.com ISBN 9781409202417. 9 years + Michael sets out on a desperate quest to save his parents, helped and hindered by the magical Monkey King. Available as paperback and e-book.

Non-fiction:

The Smallpox Slayer, Alan Brown, narrative non-fiction published by Hodder. ISBN 0340787732. 10+ years. The dramatic story of how doctor Edward Jenner developed smallpox vaccine by experimenting on young James Phipps.

Tolpuddle Boy: Transported to hell and back, Alan Brown, narrative non-fiction published by Hodder. ISBN 0340852038. 10+ years. The adventures of a young labourer transported to the awful penal colonies of Australia.

Dead Good, Alan Brown, illustrated by Caroline Firenza, the residents of a Victorian cemetery tell their stories. Published by The Friends of the General Cemetery, tel 0114 2798402 or web www.fogc.org ISBN 0953999432.

Multi-media:

Who Stole the Tarts? by Alan Brown. Interactive Literacy Multimedia Reading Level 3 on CD-ROM from Ginn. ISBN 0602206065 (Teaching Guide ISBN 0602206111). An Alice in Wonderland who dunnit.

I speak about my books in libraries, primary schools, conferences and book shops, to adults and children. Before becoming a full-time author I was a teacher across the primary age range.

Group sizes for readings can be large, but for workshops I find that small groups are best. Activities are aimed at starting work to be finished later, or, with more time, to produce polished stories.

Writing activities may be based on my published books. Those involving animals, such as *A Dog Of My Own*, can be the start of story telling by younger children about their pets. With *Windhover* as an example, tales can be told from the animal's point of view, or, as in *I Am a Dog*, the writer can pretend to be an animal.

Hoot and Holler is a good start for writing about games and friendship. *The Dreaming Tree* helps children think about what they can do to protect the environment and encourages very young ones to write a few words about their own dreams. I use *King of the Dark Tower* to help children retell familiar tales at length and in detail, and *Walter Rat* to encourage them to write about journeys

of adventure. *Sword and Sorcery* stimulates older students to locate stories in future worlds of their own devising.

My interests in fiction extend from fantasies using myths and legends, to domestic and environmental stories concerning pets and wildlife. Imagination is the common element, and I try to encourage this in young writers.

I use my non-fiction as a basis for writing from different points of view, voices and styles, and to discuss historical and scientific research.

For several years, I taught Writing for Children on the MA Writing at Sheffield Hallam University. I contributed the chapter on that subject to Steve Earnshaw's *Handbook of Creative Writing*, published by Edinburgh University Press.

I can share experiences of self-publication on the Internet with aspiring writers by referring to my novel *Michael and the Monkey King* (Lulu.com) and home-made website www.alanjamesbrown.com (Mr Site).

My agent is Caroline Walsh at David Higham Associates, 5-8 Lower John Street, Golden Square, London, W1F 9HA.

Alan Brown 02/06/2008