

Bristol schoolboy writes trilogy

Owen Elloway Smith, from Henleaze in Bristol, has written the 'Dragon Trilogy', a series of adventure books widely enjoyed by children of junior school age. Sales of the books help to raise funds for an orphanage in Ghana.

The books

Owen wrote **The Castle of Dragalno** (160 pages) in 2005, when he was 9 years old. The book built on a story that he had written in a Year 4 literacy lesson at Henleaze Junior School. The second book, **Skeleton Secrets** (176 pages), was published towards the end of 2006. The final volume, **Dragon Disaster** (202 pages), was published in autumn 2008.

Teaching activities

These books are being used by teachers in a number of ways, including:

- reading aloud to the class, or encouraging individual readers;
- asking children to continue the story, or draw pictures based on the descriptions; and
- discussing writing style, and how it develops through the three books.

Owen has also talked to classes about his writing, and has enjoyed receiving and replying to 'letters to an author' from literacy groups.

The story

The books follow the adventures of a 12-year-old boy called Charlie Aldon. In the first book, Charlie is given the wrong form for a school trip and finds himself heading for the Castle of Dragalno, the most haunted castle in the world, where he meets dragons, monsters and other creatures. The second book charts the progress of Charlie and his companions in the castle, as they try to solve clues about the mysterious Dragalno. And the third book, in which Charlie and his friends have escaped from the castle, builds to an exciting finale, as they try to halt Dragalno's evil plan.

Media coverage

The *Bristol Evening Post* included articles on each of the three books (2005, 2006, 2008).

The September 2008 issue of *The Bristol Nine* (a community magazine for the residents and businesses of BS9) included a feature on Owen and his books.

On 17 December 2008, Owen was a guest on BBC Radio Bristol's breakfast show, and was delighted to speak to Charlie Higson, who is one of his favourite authors. That same evening, Owen appeared on BBC Points West to talk about his books.

In December 2009, Owen opened the new library at Filton Avenue Junior School.



August 2008: Owen (right), the Dragon Trilogy, and his brother and number one fan, David

Each book costs £5 (plus postage, where applicable), and copies are available from the publisher, to whom all queries should be addressed:

Peter Elloway Smith, 10 Falldon Way, Bristol BS9 4HR

T: 0117 962 0497

E: ellowaysmith@blueyonder.co.uk

W: www.ellowaysmith.co.uk