



EDUCATION NEWS

Education News – The Internet’s Leading Source for News and Commentary on Education Since 1997 – Jimmy Kilpatrick, Editor-In-Chief

DAILY | COMMENTARIES | BLOGS | GLOBAL | HIGHER ED | INSIGHTS ON EDUCATION

YOU ARE HERE: HOME

AUGUST 13, 2013 11:40 AM

► DAILY ► BOOK REVIEWS ► AN INTERVIEW WITH DON M. WINN: SPACE COP ZACK

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY



An Interview with Don M. Winn: Space Cop Zack

Posted by Jimmy Kilpatrick on August 13, 2013 in Book Reviews, Daily, Insights on Education | 0 Comment

Michael F. Shaughnessy

1) Don, I understand that you have a new book out. Tell us about it!

My new picture book is called *Space Cop Zack, Protector of the Galaxy*. In this book, Space Cop Zack and his faithful robot sidekick GARG chase the terrible Dr.

Dogbreath across the galaxy. The story follows their adventures as they brave bad smells, squishy slime, giant ocean monsters, and even motion sickness. The question of whether Zack and GARG finally capture Dr. Dogbreath, or if he escapes their grasp is left up to children’s imaginations.

The surprise twist at the end of the story is that Zack is actually a little boy in his backyard with his favorite toy robot, an old cardboard box, and a big imagination. The main teaching point of the book gives parents an opportunity to remind kids about the importance of using their imaginations.

I kind of like to think of the style of this book as something of a literary comic book for young kids. I used to love comic books as a kid, but they’re not exactly made for reading aloud. So this book has all the action and adventure kids enjoy from comic books, but it’s meant for parents and children to read aloud together, just like all my picture books.

2) Where did you get the idea for a “space cop”?

When I was a boy we would frequently play cowboys or cops and robbers but after a while this would get old. I always wanted to explore and have adventures and there was no greater wilderness in need of exploration than our vast universe. My imagination soon took me to outer space. At first I was lockstep with NASA, sitting in my big cardboard box preparing to be the first man—okay, boy—on the moon. But with imagination I could go anywhere, and soon I was chasing intergalactic robbers throughout the galaxy.



ADVERTISEMENT



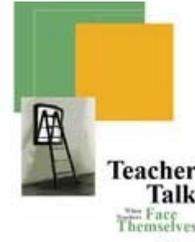
Micro-Game Preparing Teachers with Critical Survival Skills to De-escalate Classroom Conflict



Dr. Martin Haberman 1932 - 2012



Authentic Air Jordans



LINDAMOOD • BELL
Learning Processes

WANTED:
CARING, NURTURING
TYPES. ABLE TO
WORK THROUGH
DISTRACTIONS.
AMAZING BENEFITS.
EARN YOUR BSN OR MSN ONLINE >



WGU TEXAS
THE UNIVERSITY OF YOU

3) Where does imagination fit in?

Imagination, pretending, and make-believe all serve to entertain and exercise the elastic young mind. It's one of our first ways to see how we relate to the world and our surroundings.

Parents often want to encourage their children's aptitude for imagination and discovery, and with this book, they can do just that. The goal while writing *Space Cop Zack* was to inspire children to create their own adventures. I know that kids do that naturally, but it doesn't hurt to provide a little positive reinforcement. Today kids have so many opportunities for entertainment—television shows and video games and various other interactive devices—that unless they make time for imaginative play, there's a possibility they could miss out on the enriching experiences that it has to offer.

4) Why do you see imagination as important?

Imagination, developed in youth, is a tool that serves us well as adults. Imagination helps us with problem solving, critical thinking skills, reasoning, judgment, empathy, compassion, and many other vital social skills because all these require us to be able to imagine different scenarios and evaluate which course of action to take.

5) Don, many years ago, people would crowd around the radio and listen to "Who knows what evil lurks in the heart of man" and various other radio shows. People would have to use their imagination. But now, we have t.v.s and movies and all kinds of other visual stimulation. How do you as an author have to adjust?

While we all have to acknowledge the paradigm shifts of society, its definitions of entertainment and even of values, it's good to remember our roots. Reading and imagination are two aspects of human intelligence that will, I hope, never be completely supplanted. Reading as a joyful hobby and as an unequalled learning tool, and imagination as the locus of all creative ventures really are defining characteristics of humanity. I think that as humans, we are drawn to storytellers, and always will be, but as you mentioned, storytelling can take many forms, many of which are visual nowadays. And that's great—but at the same time, it can make us imaginatively lazy. The danger of that is probably greatest for kids, because they don't know what life was like before we had all these different kinds of visual entertainment available. So I would really like to encourage kids to see that the need to exercise their imaginations is important for their mental health and growth, just like the need to get physical exercise is important for their physical health and growth.

6) What are you currently working on?

I'm currently working on my second chapter book *The Lost Castle Treasure* in the *Sir Kaye, The Boy Knight* series for young readers. The *Sir Kaye* books are fun medieval adventures about a very young knight and his two friends that help him deal with that role and its responsibilities. The stories feature adventure and humor and danger as well as friendship,

Star
Administrator



Questionnaire

Star
Teacher

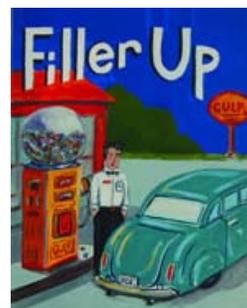


Pre-Screener

Nonpartisan Education Review



Upton Sinclair Annual Awards 2012



What might happen if every
car, truck, plane, train and ship
in the world could run on just water?

ADVERTISEMENT

loyalty, and the value of holding fast to knightly ideals.

I'm also developing a new program for school visits called *Space Cop Zack and the World of Imagination*. This will be a highly interactive presentation where all participants will give their imaginations a workout with ordinary classroom objects. It should be a lot of fun.

For more information about the Sir Kaye series:

<http://cardboardboxadventures.wordpress.com/about-the-knighting-of-sir-kaye/>

7) Do you have a web site where people can learn more about the exploits of Zack?

Preview of Space Cop Zack:

<http://cardboardboxadventures.wordpress.com/2013/08/06/the-power-of-imagination-beta-version/>

Website:

www.donwinn.com



Share



Related posts:

1. [An Interview with Don M. Winn: Who is SIR KAYE?](#) Michael Shaughnessy - 1) Don, you have just finished a...
2. [An Interview with Don M. Winn: Adventures in a Cardboard Box?](#) Michael F. Shaughnessy 1) Don, you have just released yet...
3. [Is young Zack Kopplin a defender of traditional science or a handy tool for teachers unions?](#) BATON ROUGE, La. – In the beginning Zack Kopplin was...
4. [An Interview with Kathleen Morrissey: Who are Walter and Mike and Why are they saying those things about them?](#) Michael F. Shaughnessy - 1.) Kathleen, first of all tell...
5. [Space Lab Contest Picks Zebra Spiders and Antifungal Bacteria](#) A zebra spider spins no webs, but instead catches its...
6. [Our Space: Being a Responsible Citizen of the Digital World | The GoodWork Project](#) For most young people today, engagement with new digital media...
7. [An Interview with Susan Maithya: Teaching Communication, Courtesy and Kindness](#) Michael F. Shaughnessy - 1) Susan, you have just published...
8. [An Interview with Douglas E. Richards: On Hitting the New York Times Best Seller List](#) Michael F. Shaughnessy - The PROMETHEUS PROJECT books are fast...
9. [Children's publisher developing app for e-reading](#) A leading publisher of children's books is taking a big...
10. [An Interview with Neal McCluskey: Are we in the middle of Banned Books Week?](#) Michael F. Shaughnessy - From what I can find, Banned...



About Jimmy Kilpatrick

"The quality and variety of the selections you will find on EducationViews.org is second-to-none on the internet today. Since 1997 we have been providing this service at no cost to education professionals, the public in general and policy makers. Hope you enjoy the articles and commentary. Please forward us to your friends and associates. EducationViews.org is maybe the most effective way to transforming educators. The daily email offers a direct and easy way for busy teachers to grow philosophically. I was skeptical, but once you open the email and decide to read a story, you are hooked and it becomes a daily ritual to check out what's happening. Educating teachers as to what is really going on in the schools opens up a new worldview and vision of thinking most have not been exposed to. The end result, better informed teachers who have a more effective understanding of the principles that make academic achievement a reality. Great job. The more email addresses of educators you get on your list, the bigger the impact and the more kids you will positively influence.

[View all posts by Jimmy Kilpatrick →](#)

LEAVE A REPLY

=====
Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Name *

Email *

Website

Comment

[DAILY](#) | [COMMENTARIES](#) | [BLOGS](#) | [GLOBAL](#) | [HIGHER ED](#) | [INSIGHTS ON EDUCATION](#) |

© 2013 [Education News](#). All rights reserved. [XHTML](#) / [CSS](#) Valid.

 [RSS](#)