



This month, we've been talking to . . . Vince Ford

Vince Ford is a former winner of the Tom Fitzgibbon Award with his title *2MUCH4U*, which also won the 2000 New Zealand Post Junior Fiction Award and Best First Book Award. He has gone on to build a strong following among junior readers, with a number of his other titles including *SOMUCH2DO*, *POSSUMS2U* and the Chronicles of Stone trilogy picking up New Zealand Post and Storylines honours.

Vince lives in the United Arab Emirates with his wife and daughter. We asked him some questions about himself and his writing, and here's what he said ...

Where were you born? Where do you live now?

Born in Eltham, Taranaki; I now live in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.

Where did you go to school? Did you have a nickname?

Mangamingi School (no longer open) and Francis Douglas Memorial College.

What were you like in school? What is the naughtiest thing you did?

I was pretty quiet at school and quite laid back. I used to work hard at my schoolwork though. I once got in trouble for climbing up a pipe onto the second floor of the boarders' hostel.

What was your favourite book growing up?

Souder – set in the American south.

Who is your favourite children's author?

Roald Dahl. I'm currently reading some of his books to my daughter and they're great fun!

What is your favourite food/colour/movie?

My favourite food is passionfruit crème brûlée. I don't have a favourite colour, and my favourite movie is *Forrest Gump*.

Who inspired you to write?

No-one in particular. My Dad encouraged all us kids to do whatever we wanted to do.

How did you get started? How old were you?

I used to read a lot and I thought I'd love to write. One day I decided I'd better do it, otherwise I'd always wish I'd tried it.

Why did you want to be a writer?

I liked the idea of working for myself and creating something out of nothing. I love stories.

How do you think up ideas?

I see and experience and read and hear and sometimes a little lump of all those things forms and words wrap around that idea and it becomes a story.

Do you have a special place where you write?

At my desktop computer is always the best place to write.

What is the best thing about being an author?

The freedom to create whatever you want. You are not limited.

Have you had a funny or embarrassing moment as an author?

A girl kept putting her hand up and I told her I was taking questions at the end. Eventually she shot out of the room – she'd been wanting to ask to go to the toilet and because I hadn't stopped she'd wet herself! I felt awful.

What do you do when you are not writing?

I go off-road driving in the desert or take my family camping and exploring in Oman. Occasionally we go travelling around the Middle East or in Europe.

What would you have chosen to be if you were not an author?

Perhaps an organic farmer, although I would use common sense and science rather than witchcraft to make things grow better.

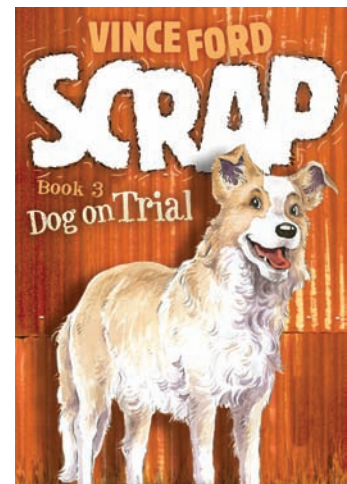
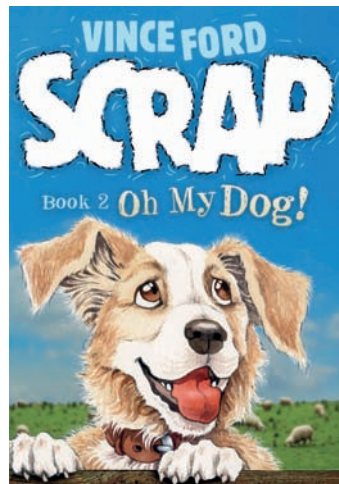
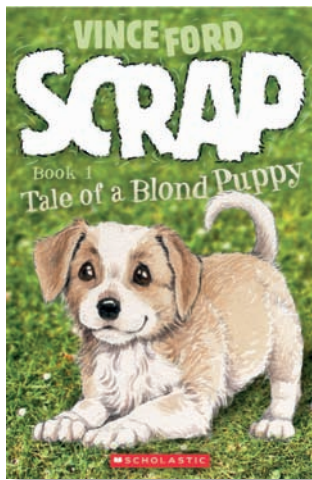
Which famous person from the past would you like to talk to?

It would be interesting to have a chat to Jesus and the prophet Mohammed at the same time.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?

I'm married with a wife and a 6 year old daughter (as of 2012). I'm writing an adult novel of historic fiction now, although I'm terrible with dates.

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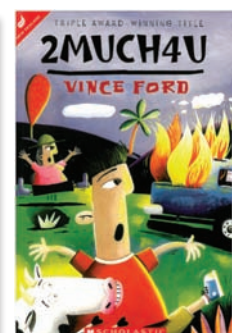
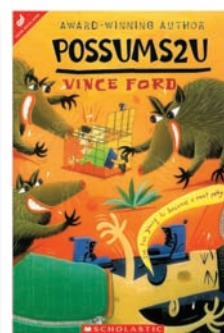
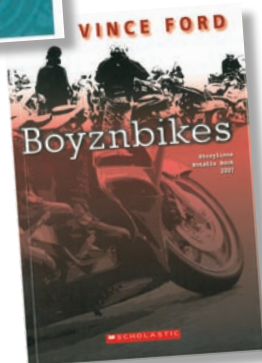
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