



This month, we've been talking to . . . Isaac Drought

Isaac Drought is an intermediate school teacher currently living in Oakura Beach, Taranaki. He has always been an avid reader, with a particular interest in less conventional books, but it wasn't until he left New Zealand to teach overseas that he began writing with passion.

We asked Isaac some questions about himself and his writing, and here's what he said ...

Where were you born? Where do you live now?

I was born in Devonport, and I now live in Oakura Beach, New Plymouth.

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

I went to Takapuna Grammar School. I have been known as 'Herb' for over 25 years, the origin of the name involves a motorbike, my uncle and a muddy farm track ... go figure!

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

I was good on the whole, but I was asked to resign as a prefect because 'you don't take your role as an authority figure seriously'.

What was your favourite book growing up?

The House That Bebo Built.

Who is your favourite children's author?

Oliver Jeffers

What is your favourite food?

Masakan Padang (traditional Indonesian food, usually displayed in windows and without refrigeration, flouting all food handling standards we are used to here! Guaranteed to give the uninitiated a sore stomach for days afterwards!)

Who inspired you to write?

Every kid who I have taught ... and my wife, who is convinced I can write a best-selling book, which will be made into a movie, therefore ensuring she can live a life of plenty!

How did you get started? How old were you?

I was about 25 when I started, but didn't take it

seriously until I won the Joy Cowley Award. Now I'm so serious I have a furrowed brow.

Why did you want to be a writer?

The 'Creative Imperative' ... I may have made that term up.

How do you think up ideas?

I go for walks on the beach on windy days. It blows all the boring 'cobwebby' ideas away making room for new ones ... oh, and reading books about history.

Do you have a special place where you write?

The day bed by the window, it's sunny and comfortable but gives me a small view of the sea so it's also very distracting!

What is the best thing about being an author?

Fame and untold riches ... just kidding! It feels good to be able to inspire kids.

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

Fingers crossed, not as yet, but the Storylines Family Day is yet to come so this may change.

What do you do when you are not writing?

Surf, teach, drink coffee, read, pay overdue notices at the library, play tennis poorly.

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

Something to do with aviation... I'm an aerophile and proud of it!

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

Winston Churchill, a few cigars and brandy while discussing geopolitical issues ... happy days.

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

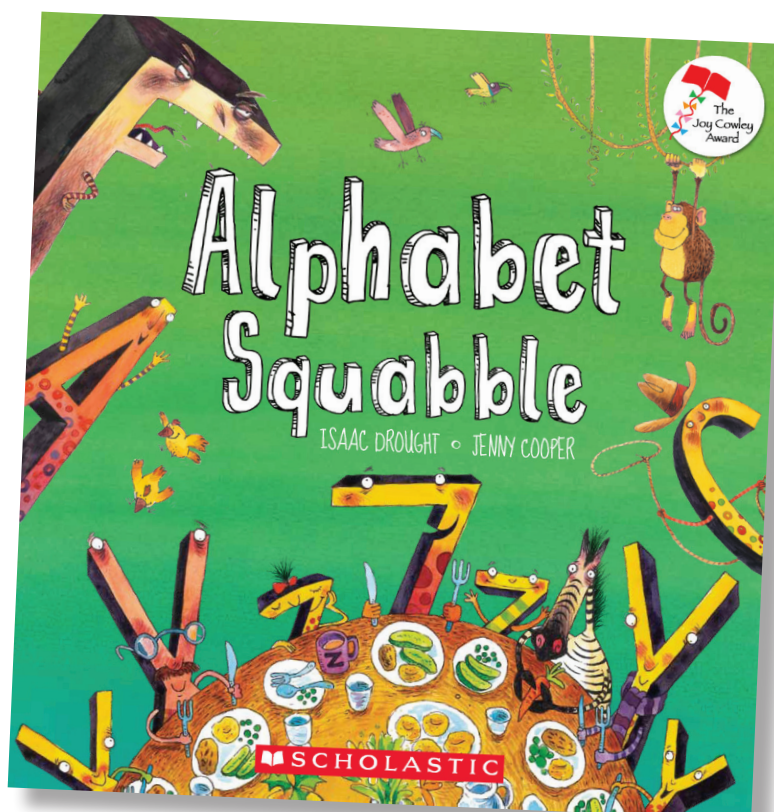
I have grand plans, I feel the world of children's

literature can expand further. I have heard many kids say that they would like longer picture books and more non-fiction stories about adventures. I also plan to sail throughout the Indian Ocean with my wife within the next 10 years. Curry, exotic islands and many, many waves!

ISAAC DROUGHT'S DEBUT PICTURE BOOK
Winner of the Joy Cowley Award 2012

Alphabet Squabble

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