

# TOM PALMER WORKSHOP OPTIONS

## For virtual visits or in person

Tom Palmer is the author of 50 award-winning children's books, covering spy, crime, ghost, sport and history genres. He can visit schools in person – sticking to your strict social distancing guidelines – or visit virtually, working with single classes or larger groups. He has also worked with groups of teachers looking at reading for pleasure and other topics. Tom is an experienced provider of workshops through Microsoft Teams, YouTube, Facebook Live and Zoom and other mediums.

**Tom offers a wide choice of sessions to stream to your class or year group. Schools can choose multiple sessions from this menu or develop a bespoke activity (around history, sport, spies, war, crime and ghost stories) for specific groups of children during the school day.**

For more information email: [info@tompalmer.co.uk](mailto:info@tompalmer.co.uk) twitter : @tompalmerauthor

---

### GENERAL SESSIONS

#### Meet Tom – Author Q&A (Y1 to Y9)

Tom talks about how anyone can be an author, covering research, editing, planning and staring at a blank page. With lots of time for questions, answered honestly.

#### Football Reading Game (Y3 to Y9) (Rugby League and Union versions available).

A quiz about reading for pleasure with a football twist. Ending with a penalty shoot out. Encouraging the children to talk about what they enjoy reading: newspapers, websites, magazines, fiction, non-fiction.

---

### WRITING SESSIONS

**Tom offers a variety of sessions on aspects of writing from idea to final edit. He can work with multiple groups of varying ability / age or guide one group of children through the whole writing process.**

#### Research & Planning

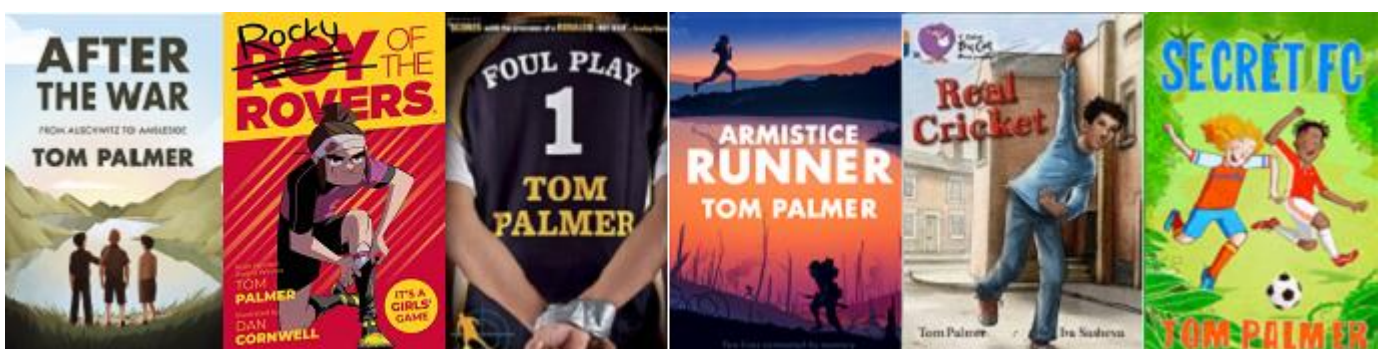
How to research a story, using books, films, museums and interviewing real people, with a big focus on evaluating the credibility of internet sources. Then developing this research into a plan for a story.

#### Starting and first drafting

The hardest part of writing is turning an idea and a plan into prose. How do you start and fill the blank page? How do you overcome the feeling that your first few sentences are rubbish? Creating a first draft can be fun with Tom's tips.

#### Editing

Lots of children – and adults – hate editing, revising, rewriting. With Tom's list of techniques, he guides children through the most important trick of the trade. Rewriting.



## HISTORY SESSIONS

### Holocaust (Y5 to Y9)

How Tom met and heard the story of Holocaust survivors, visited concentration camps in order to tell the story of the Holocaust honestly and age-appropriate. Focussing on the 300 child concentration camp survivors who came to live in the English Lake District in 1945.

**Book: *After the War***

### Armistice and First World War

Tom's three books about the First World War explore the Armistice, a famous Sikh pilot flying over the trenches and the true story of England footballers at the Somme. Tom talks about his research, using diverse sources : recordings, museums, books, films and battlefield trips.

**Books: *Over the Line, FlyBoy, Armistice Runner***

### Second World War

From the Battle of Britain to D-Day and to the aftermath of the war, Tom talks about how to plan, research and write fictional stories about real historical events.

**Books: *Spitfire, D-Day Dog, After the War***

### Refugees (Y2 to Y9)

Four of Tom's books feature refugees from ancient history, the Holocaust and the modern day. Tom explores writing about the impact this has upon refugees and those who they settle among.

**Books: *After the War, Pitch Invasion, Gus the Fantastic Football Cat and D-Day Dog.***

### Fairtrade (Y3 to Y9)

When Tom was writing *Off Side*, the story of a young trafficked African footballer and son of cocoa bean farmers, he visited real fair trade farms and communities in Ghana to make his story accurate and authentic. He is a proud advocate for Fair Trade, Divine Chocolate and the Kuapa Cocoa cooperative.

**Book: *Off Side***

### War. What is it good for?

Tom leads a debate about attitudes to war. Drawing on examples from history he encourages children to debate the wrongs and concept of justifiable warfare.

**Books: *D-Day Dog, Armistice Runner, After the War and the Wings series.***

### Animals and War

*D-Day Dog* is the story of a boy who discovers how dogs and other animals have been used in war. Tom explores this theme through books like *War Horse* and the *Megan Rix* series, as well as his own. Is it fair to send a pigeon over a battle field? What if it would save 100 people's lives?

**Books: *D-Day Dog***

### KS2 & KS3 History

This session focuses on the research and the writing of Tom's books `set in the Iron Age, Roman Britain, the age of the Vikings, and the First and Second World Wars.

**Books: *Killing Ground, Dark Arena, Pitch Invasion, etc.***

