

Journeys of Discovery

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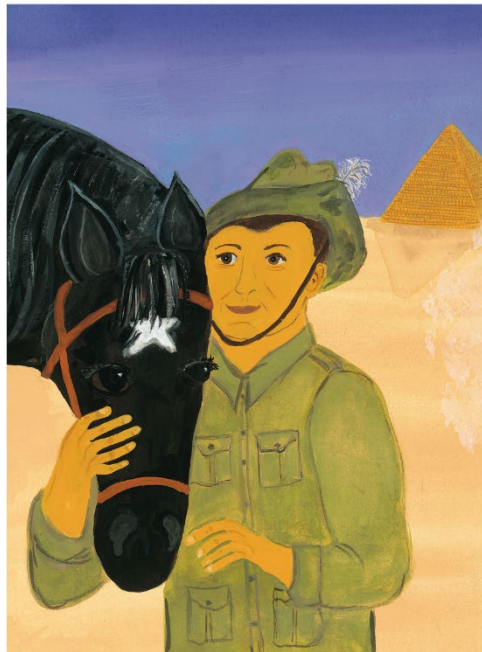
ABOUT MARK

I'm a history hunter and I love researching. I find surprise and inspiration in the journeys, quests and challenges of legendary characters. Discovering facts, long lost or forgotten, is like going on a journey back in time. The creative process of reconstructing the past takes me on adventures and most of all, I enjoy sharing the stories that I find.

Settings

Traveling to the setting I'm writing about, where historical events occurred, is my favourite part of bringing history to life. Whether it be to the island of ghosts on a search for shipwreck treasure, or finding the remains of a bushranger's horse traps, or walking along the hallowed beach at Gallipoli, journeys of discovery help me balance creative interpretation with historical authenticity.

Is there a historical setting that you would like to visit?





The Spark

My writing is occupied with well-known and little-known slices of history. The initial spark that inspires me to write can be generated by a setting or a photograph that teases my imagination, a map or a memory. Artifacts also connect me to history – a nugget of gold, a relic of war, a shipwreck coin, a bushranger's bloodstained sash.

Can you think of an object with a story to tell?

Characters

Characters we can see in our 'mind's eye' aren't created with the snap of a finger. They develop over many hours, days, weeks, months or years spent together. Characters come to life when they are motivated by a goal. A story develops when we find out where their journey takes them and what challenges or obstacles they might face.

If you could research any character in history, who would it be and why?



The Goal

The goal of research isn't just to gather documents and collect information. These are the raw materials of history. History is not an exact science. There is so much we simply do not know. Research leads writers to draw conclusions and make objective interpretations. The goal is to use the research to tell a GREAT story.

If you could research a character in history, who would it be?



Rules for Research

- Find a subject you care about.
- Search for clues.
- Analyze evidence.
- Enjoy the hunt.
- Be curious. Be patient. Be persistent.
- Find many sources of information.
- Leave no stone unturned in your search for the truth.

Sources

In our research we can use *primary sources* – the original documents. *Secondary sources* are the writings of other curious people who have shared our passion for the subject. There are many places to hunt for information. Here are just a few:

- Libraries – school, local, state and national
- Reference books – biographies – letters, diaries, maps, photographs
- Archives – local, state and national archives,
- Historical Societies, interviews and oral histories
- Films and plays
- Museums, historical sites and monuments
- The Internet

