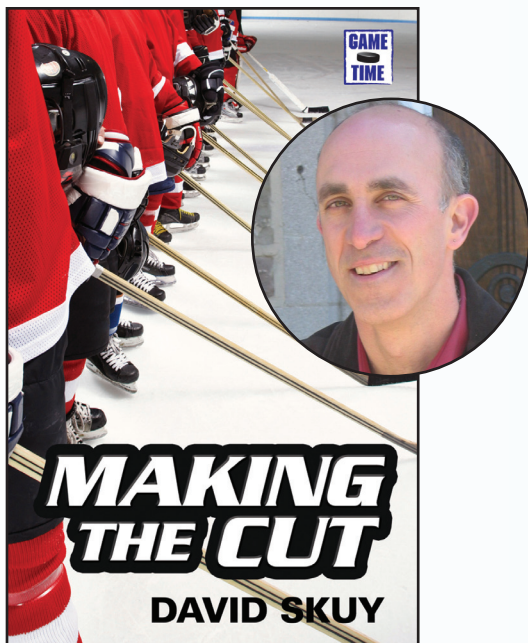


Book Fair Author Spotlight On...



David Skuy
Making the Cut

Q What inspires you to write?

A As the name suggests, Game Time is for kids that love sports, that love a challenge, that love competition. The idea that I can create a book that these types of kids will spend time with, will enjoy reading, will take a break from the computer and video games and television for, even for a short time, is what keeps me writing; and if after reading Game Time, even one kid decides to read another book - well, that would be the icing on the cake.

Q What advice do you have for young writers?

A It's the oldest cliché there is: keep writing. Don't stop writing, and don't stop learning about writing. Write a couple of thousand pages, keep improving your work, and enjoy the journey. If you don't love writing, and instead enjoy the idea of writing, you'll soon tire of it and move on. Don't listen to the naysayers. It's easy to be negative. Just write, and see what happens.

Q What was your favourite book when you were growing up?

A I didn't have a favourite book, but rather a favourite series. I grew up reading sports books, and my absolute, all-time favourite was Chip Hilton. Unfortunately, this was before the internet, and I had only about 10 books in the series. I must have read each one of those 20 times over. In some ways he was like a good friend, always there to toss around a football, to play baseball with, and to shoot some hoops. (Chip was American and he didn't play hockey.) My only regret is that I was a kid long before the internet, and I only had about 10 books in the series. Recently, I was able to buy the entire series (and boy did it cost me), and finally was able to read them all!

Q What do you like to do when you're not writing?

A I have a fairly busy life, and do most of my writing while I take my kids to their various activities, whether it's hockey, baseball, volleyball, theatre ... and a bunch of other stuff. So what do I do when I'm not writing? I'm watching my kids play! And when I'm not doing that, I'm occasionally practicing law.

Q What has been the biggest achievement of your career so far?

A It took some effort, and a great deal of luck, to get the Game Time series off the ground. I have received some wonderful letters and emails from kids across Canada telling me that they related to Game Time and looked forward to the next book. Those letters and emails are all I need to inspire me to finish the next book - and the next - and the next. There is no greater achievement for any writer.

Q Do you see any of your own character in Charlie?

A I tried to have Charlie think about hockey like I do. It's the game, the competition, the teammates, the sounds and smells of the arena, that make hockey the greatest game in the world. Charlie Joyce and his friends simply love to get on the ice, whether it's fooling around playing shinny, working on drills in practice, or fighting for the winning goal with a minute to go. With the allure of big money, the NHL, and demanding parents and coaches, sometimes I think some kids lose track of what makes hockey special. Charlie never does, and I hope I have some of that in me too.