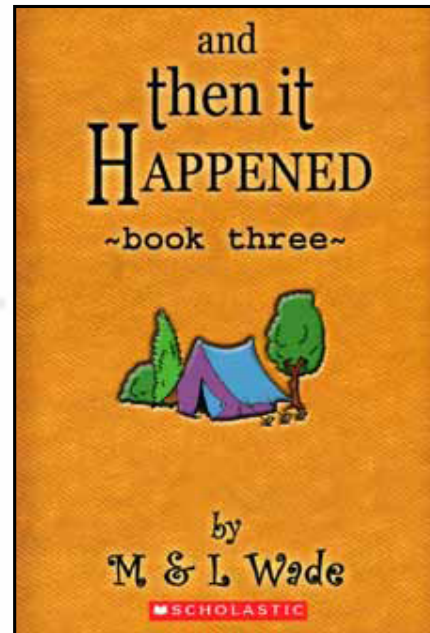


Book Fair Author Spotlight On...



Mike and Laura Wade



Q What inspires you to write?

A Mike: I get asked this question all the time at school author visits. Of course, fan mail from young readers is very inspiring, but it's the feedback that we get from teachers and parents — saying how much they enjoy reading our books with their classes and kids — that inspires me the most. One of the most inspiring examples comes from a school I was visiting: the librarian related how she had stopped a boy in the hall and told him that he had one of our books overdue. He replied that his dad wasn't finished reading it yet.

Laura: Years ago, before there were so many great books for reluctant readers — and boys in particular — we decided to try writing a series that would appeal to reluctant male readers. When we hear that our books have inspired a child to read, or turned a non-reader into a reader, it is very inspiring.

Q What advice do you have for young writers?

A Mike: It's never too early to begin your writing career. Gordon Korman was in grade seven when his first book was published.

Laura: The best advice that I can give young writers is to read, read, read. Read anything. Read what like, but keep reading. And write what you like.

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

A Mike: *Lost in the Barrens* by Farley Mowat.

Laura: *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss (when I was very young), and then the *Trixie Belden* series (when I was older). I still love a good mystery.

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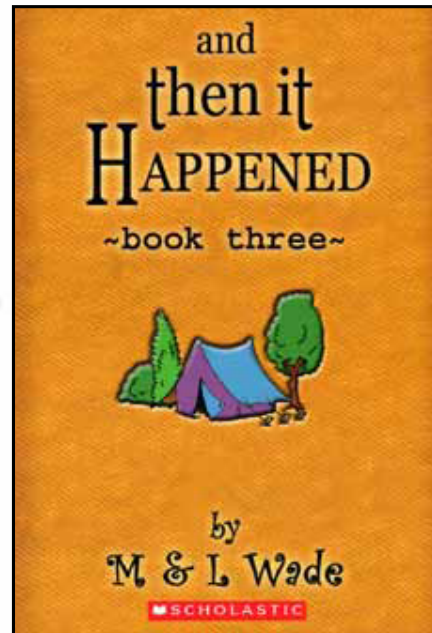
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Book Fair Author Spotlight On...



Mike and Laura Wade



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

A Mike: I enjoy fishing, hunting, and wilderness canoeing. I also like sitting in my hammock reading.

Laura: I enjoy working out, reading, playing fetch with our dog, and getting dragged along on wilderness canoe trips.

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

A Mike: I have the privilege of speaking at nearly 300 schools each year across Canada. That's quite an honour and my biggest achievement.

Laura: As a librarian, it is wonderful to see our own books in print and on the shelf alongside so many wonderful books.

Q How much from the *And Then It Happened* series is based on your own personal experiences? Can you give us one example?

A Laura: While there is a basis of truth in some of our stories, we definitely exaggerate and embellish our tales. Some are based on jokes that have been around for generations, and others are just fun, made-up stories. Our very first story, *The Dead Bird Collection*, was a stunt that Mike pulled on his uncle many years ago. Other story ideas have come from friends. Most of the ideas, however, come from Mike's limitless imagination.