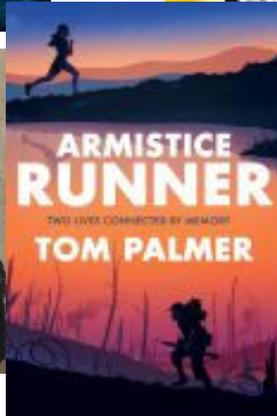
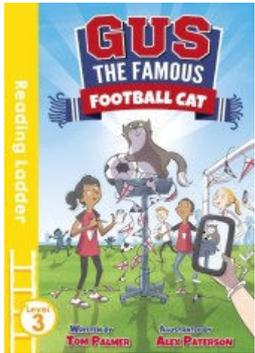
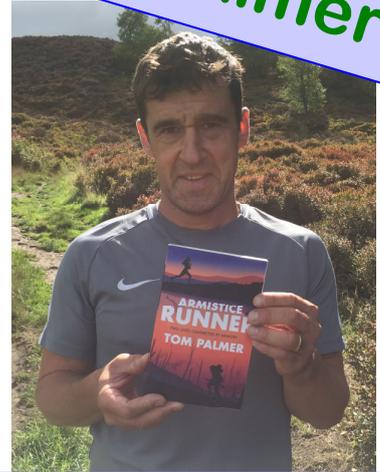
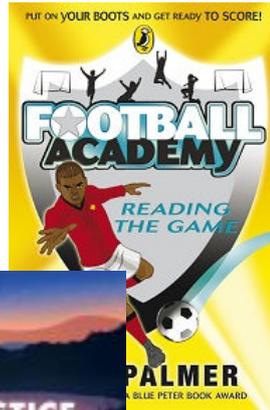
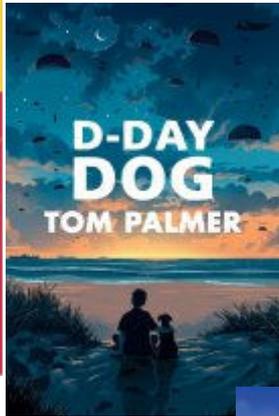


AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Tom Palmer



Why bother to read?

It makes me happy.

What was your favourite childhood book?

Up to the age of 16 the only book I read – by choice – was *The Illustrated History of Leeds United*. I liked it because it was about what I liked. Football. Leeds United. Me.

But also because it wasn't fiction. I found fiction pointless and intimidating. It wasn't real, so why did people go on about it? It was only when I became strong at reading non-fiction, that I found the confidence to explore fiction.

Which of your own books is your favourite?

Armistice Runner. For two reasons: one, because it is about a girl fell runner and was written at a time my daughter and I were doing a lot of fell running together. Two: because of the positive response the book has had from teachers, librarians and children. When it won an award from the national Federation of Children's Book Groups' Older Readers category, I felt like I could maybe stop thinking of myself as an imposter.

Tom Palmer is the author of 48 books featuring spies, history, the RAF, ghosts, detectives, war, football and rugby. One of Tom's first jobs was working for the Royal National Institute for the Blind. His job was to record books for blind students to listen to. Blind characters are rare in books. That's why he made Danny's dad in *Foul Play* blind so Danny could read books with his dad.

Tom had several jobs other before he became an author. He was a milkman, he worked in a warehouse, but one of his favourite jobs was working in bookshops. He worked for Waterstones and in 1997 won the Bookseller of the Year Award.

When Tom is not working, spending time with his family or watching live sport, his favourite hobby is fell running.