***Biography of an Author***

Paul Jennings

 

Paul Jennings is an Australian author who has sold a staggering 8.9 million copies and his books have been translated into 18 different languages. With over 100 titles to his name it is no wonder why Paul Jennings has long been a household name in Australian children’s literature. He has been voted ‘favourite author’ over forty times in Australia and has won every children’s choice award we have.

Paul was born in England in 1943 during the war. Until the age of six he lived in London with his parents and sister, Ruth. In 1949 Paul and his family set sail for Australia. However, it wasn’t as exotic as it sounds because, in 1949, the only way to travel ‘down under’ was by boat and it took around 5 weeks from England to our shores.

Paul and his family settled in Melbourne where he started school at Bentleigh West Primary School. In fact, Paul’s favourite teacher, Mr Wheeler would later find his way into Paul’s books.

After Paul left school he decided to become a teacher. He taught in schools in Victoria and then became a lecturer in a University. In his spare time, he loved to write. In 1985 his first book *Unreal!* was published and in 1989 Paul decided to leave teaching and become a full-time writer.



Since then he has written book after book and won award after award. His book *Unseen!* was awarded the 1999 Queensland Premier’s Literary Award for Best Children’s Book. In 1995 Paul was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to children’s literature.

Some of Paul’s short stories have been adapted for TV and, from 1989 to 2001, *Round the Twist* was on TV almost every week.

With some of Australia’s best-known actors playing out Paul’s carefully crafted characters, the show was a big hit.

His books, *Unbearable*, *Spooner or Later*, *Rascal’s Big Day*, *Unbelievable* and *The Nest*, along with countless others, have been enjoyed by young Australians for years. Paul’s new series, *Don’t Look Now* with Andrew Weldon features a return of his classic humour and his awarding winning style of ending a story with a twist.

Paul is the father of six children and grandfather to nine. He often talks about his early reading days with his *Rupert the Bear* books. He’s never moved too far from Victoria and now lives in Warrnambool in his home by the sea.