

Me and My Dog
(Hachette Livre Australia)
Crew, Gary

Research Background

Me and my Dog is a collection of 10 historical essays each of approximately 4,000 words. Each essay is based upon the life and heroics feat of a particular named dog from History. For example: Laika, the Russian space dog; Tray, the dog of Mary Anning, the 19 Century fossil hunter of Lyme Regis; Marjorie, the stray that give its life in the discovery of insulin and Joy, the Japanese spaniel, who escaped from the arms of Anastasia Romanov during the assassination of the Russian Royal Family. *Me and my Dog* contains a scholarly bibliography of over 20 sources used in the deep research required to write this book.

Research Contribution

The innovation undertaken by Crew in writing *Me and my Dog* was to use the appeal of genuine historical canines (all named as they were family pets) to introduce children to history using an empathetic companion, the dog, which so many of the book's readers would relate to, having such a pet at home.

Research Significance

Dr Gary Crew is four times winner of the Children's Book Council of Australia Children's Book of the Year Award - twice for his novels and twice for his illustrated books. Crew has also won the New South Wales Premier's Award for Children's Literature (the Patricia Wrightson Award), the Victorian Premier's Award for Children's Literature (The Alan Marshall Award) and been short listed for both the Queensland Premier's Award and the Western Australian Premier's Awards. Crew has been twice short listed for the Crime Writers of America Edgar Allan Poe Mystery Fiction Award.