Research Statement

Sam Silverthorne: Victory
(Hachette Livre Australia)
Crew, Gary

Research Background

Sam Silverthorne: Victory is a 50,000 word young adult novel. It is the third in the Sam Silverthorne Trilogy written by Crew as an outcome of his Doctorate of Creative Arts (University of the Sunshine Coast). The work particularly focuses on the last days of the Slave Trade off the East Coast of Africa (circa 1890-1910) with strong historical references to the search for fossilised remains of the Dodo in Madagascar. The research question posed by the creative work was: Can the 19th Century Boy’s Own Novel be recreated in the 21st Century without the racism and sexism usually found in that peculiarly Victorian Genre of Empire?

Research Contribution

The innovation undertaken by Crew was to write an adventure novel for 21 Century boys that was based on the great Colonial adventures undertaken in the 19 Century whereby young men were encouraged to explore the newly discovered and exotic world of Britain’s ever expanding Empire. (Fenn. 1910) Crew felt that there was a market for such novels given that contemporary interest in History is declining.

The new knowledge demonstrated in the book is two fold

[1] Content: The introduction of concepts of the Victorian obsession with the collection of natural science specimens into the contemporary teenage narrative.

[2] Voice: to introduce modern youth to the sophisticated delights of 19th Century language and voice, with which most young would be unfamiliar.

Research Significance

On the basis of the success of his first and second Sam Silverthorne novels, Hachette commissioned this third and final title in the trilogy.

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 Alan Poe Mystery Fiction Award.

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 Alan Poe Mystery Fiction Award.