A story of two novelists

Suzanne Collins is the author of *The Hunger Games* books. She was born in Connecticut in the US. Her father was a soldier in the army, so the family lived in many different places when Suzanne was young, including New York and Brussels in Belgium. She learned a lot about history from her father and she later used this knowledge in some of her books. Today, Collins is a world-famous novelist, but that wasn't always her job. First, she worked as a writer for children's TV in the US. She wasn't writing novels at this time in her life. In 2000, she was working on a programme called *Generation O!* with children's author James Proimos. Proimos encouraged Collins to try writing novels for children. Her first series of fantasy novels was *The Underland Chronicles*. However, she is more well-known for *The Hunger Games* series because of the successful films. She got the idea for *The Hunger Games* one night when she was watching the news on TV. She changed channels and began watching a reality TV show. She realised that there was very little difference between the reality TV show and the news!

Eoin Colfer is an author of books for children and young people. He was born in Wexford in Ireland. His mother and father were both teachers. His love for writing came from exciting stories about Vikings that he was learning about in school at the time. After university, Colfer worked as a school teacher. In 1992, he was living in Ireland with his wife. Then they left Ireland and he taught English in several countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. He used his experiences in Africa to write his first book *Benny and Omar*, a story about the problems a teenage boy has after moving from Tunisia to Ireland. Colfer believes that his teaching experience with children helps him write books for young people because he understands their humour and attitudes. Colfer's other books include the Marvel novel *Iron Man: The Gauntlet* and *Illegal*, about a young man's dangerous journey from Africa to Europe. However, the main reason he is famous with young readers is probably because of his series of *Artemis Fowl* books, about the adventures of a twelve-year-old criminal genius. He wrote the first *Artemis Fowl* book in 2001. He was teaching in a primary school at the time. *Artemis Fowl* became very popular – there is now an *Artemis Fowl* film, too – so Colfer decided to stop teaching and he became a professional writer. Colfer got the idea for Artemis Fowl from his four mischievous children. He thought one of his sons was similar to a villain from the James Bond films!

1 SPEAKING **Look at the photos on this page. What do you know about the authors and their books?**

2 **Read the online biographies and check your ideas in 1.**

3 **Read the online biographies again. Is the information about Suzanne Collins (SC), Eoin Colfer (EC) or both (B)?**

This author ...

1 used her/his travels in another country as inspiration for a book. SC / EC / B
2 did the same job as his/her parents. SC / EC / B
3 became a novelist because of a friend at work. SC / EC / B
4 had a different job before becoming a novelist. SC / EC / B
5 became interested in writing at school. SC / EC / B
6 moved to other countries as a child. SC / EC / B
7 is interested in history. SC / EC / B
8 learned how to write novels for young people from his/her original job. SC / EC / B
9 wrote a book that now has a film version. SC / EC / B

4 **Match the underlined words in the text to these definitions.**

1 opinions or feelings about something .....
2 television stations .....
3 tell a person to do something that you believe is good .....
4 a person with a lot of intelligence or skill .....
5 all the information a person knows about a subject .....
6 the main bad person in a story .....
7 enjoy having fun by making trouble .....
8 something a person says or does that is funny .....

5 **Critical thinkers**

In your opinion, do you need a lot of life experience to write a good book?

What makes you say that?

Use ideas from the text and other information

LIVEWORKSHEETS