

ERIC'S EARS

A series of Time Twisting Adventures

By

Niel Bushnell

Eric's Ears is an exciting new series of stories that follows the sometimes historically accurate adventures throughout history of schoolboy Eric Merrick and his best friend Ernest, a dinosaur pencil case.



Adventures in Time and Space

Eric Merrick loves History, in fact it's his most favourite lesson. Really! He loves it so much that he wants to know everything about it. Every tiny detail. The sort of things that the history books usually don't tell you.

What did the Great Fire of London smell like?

Can Popes swim?

Who would win in a fight: President John F Kennedy or Queen Victoria?

Luckily, Eric is able to find out the answers to these and many other random questions that never made it into the history books. You see, not so long ago, Eric had eaten a sponge cake covered in gravy and sweetcorn as a dare at school dinners. As he swallowed the odd mixture, Eric had undergone a remarkable transformation: his ears had grown to twice their normal size, and the skin had turned a deep shade of red. It was so odd that Eric had been in the local newspaper, and the school had banned sweetcorn from their lunchtime meals.

After a few days, Eric's ears returned to their normal size and hue, but that was just the start of it. Since then, he could travel in time and space just by using his ears! All he had to do was think about where he wanted to go and give his left ear a friendly flick. In a flash, he'd disappear from wherever he was and find himself somewhere completely different: the Jurassic period, the Wild West, Victorian London. Anywhere! Then, when he'd found the answers to all of his questions, he'd rub his right ear and he'd find himself back where he had started.

Eric

Eric might not be the most naturally gifted student, but his enthusiasm and curiosity make up for his academic prowess. He loves details and wants to know everything, much to the frustration of the grown-ups in his life. A natural optimist, Eric won't let anything stop him from finding the answers he craves.

Ernest

Ernest might look like just a fluffy dinosaur-shaped pencil case, but when he joins Eric on his time travelling adventures he is transformed, growing to almost twice Eric's height. Ernest becomes a furry, red dinosaur (Pencilsaurus Rex, part dinosaur, part pencil case) with a pair of large, round glasses balanced on his flat face. Yellow dinosaur spines line his back, and a huge zip runs along his right side. Inside is everything the inquisitive time traveller might need: reference books, spare clothing, even a suit of armour! Ernest is calm and knowledgeable, the perfect companion on Eric's wild treks through time.



The Books

With their combination of illustrations and humorous text, Eric's Ears will appeal to a broad range of young readers. Each book will also include a handful of historically accurate facts that will help children to stand out in class, be the envy of their friends, and guarantee them wealth and success in later life.

Eric's first adventure is to discover where William Shakespeare gets his ideas from – and why his forehead is so big!

Future stories include a trip to America in 1969 to find out about the first moon landing – which wouldn't have happened if not for Eric and a carefully placed elastic band. He'll also visit 1066 to see what all the fuss was about with the big Hastings fight. In fact, almost anything you might find on the National Curriculum for History Key Stage 1 & 2 might

be the sort of places Eric would visit: seeing Stonehenge when it was being built, asking Boudica how to pronounce her name, helping to design Spitfires for World War II, accidentally joining a Viking raid, being mistaken for a Pharaoh in Ancient Egypt or taking a bath in Ancient Greece!



About Niel

Niel Bushnell is an award-winning author and illustrator. He has two children's books published by Andersen Press in the UK called Sorrowline and Timesmith. Both are fast paced time-travel adventures that mix elements of fantasy and science fiction with mythology and Arthurian legends. His first novel won the Northern Promise Award in the 2011 Northern Writers' Awards.

Niel has also written two Doctor Who audiobooks as well as a the Arkship Saga, a science-fiction series set in the distant future after the Earth has been destroyed along with the rest of the solar system in a cataclysmic event known as the Fracture. He is also the author of a Young-Adult novel called Altitude.



Contact

Niel@nielbushnell.com

07702083070