

# JAMES STAFFORD



**Name:**

James Stafford

**Where did you grow up?**

Barry, South Wales.

**Where did you go to school?**

St Helen's RC Junior and Infant School (Barry)

**What was the best/worst thing about your school?**

I loved everything about infant and junior school. I especially loved games, English and History.

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

Rock star and rugby player.

**What are your hobbies?** Writing, reading, sport, film and music.

**What was your favourite book when you were young?** I was obsessed with some of the old Ladybird Books on the Greek myths. But I just loved reading everything from comics to novels to magazines.

**When did you consider being an author?**

I'd always dreamed of it, but it was not until my 30s that I tried to make it happen.

**Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular?**

People who overcome incredible odds to achieve things that matter to them.

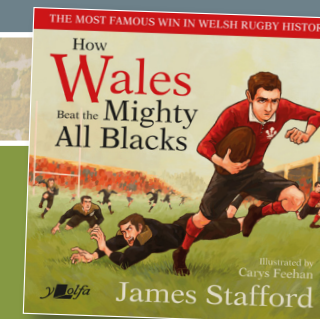
**What advice can you give to budding authors?**

Read every kind of book you can in as many different styles and genres as possible. Old and new, fiction and non-fiction, short and long, difficult and easy ... just try everything.

**Do you have any rituals when you write?**

If I'm writing fiction I'll often make an inspiring list of classical or instrumental music and to listen to while writing my stories to help put me in the mood. I also sometimes go running to clear my head and think about how to write a difficult part of a story as I am jogging.

**What's the best/worst part about being an author?** The best thing is when people tell you they enjoyed your work or they learned something new in your book. The worst is all the ideas you have that may never get published or you don't have time to write about.



## Quick fire questions:

**What's your favourite childhood book?**

Famous Legends: Book 1 (A Ladybird Book on Greek myths)

**Who's your favourite character from a children's book?** Mr Bump.

**Where is your favourite place to write?**

Old beautiful libraries that smell of old books.

**What's your favourite food?** Rice, tofu and black bean sauce.

**What's your favourite film or show?**

Ghostbusters (1984 version)

**What would be your superpower of choice?** Invisibility.

**Favourite social media network?**

Twitter.

**What makes you smile?**

Kindness.

**What's your advice for budding writers?** Read, read, read. Write, write, write.

