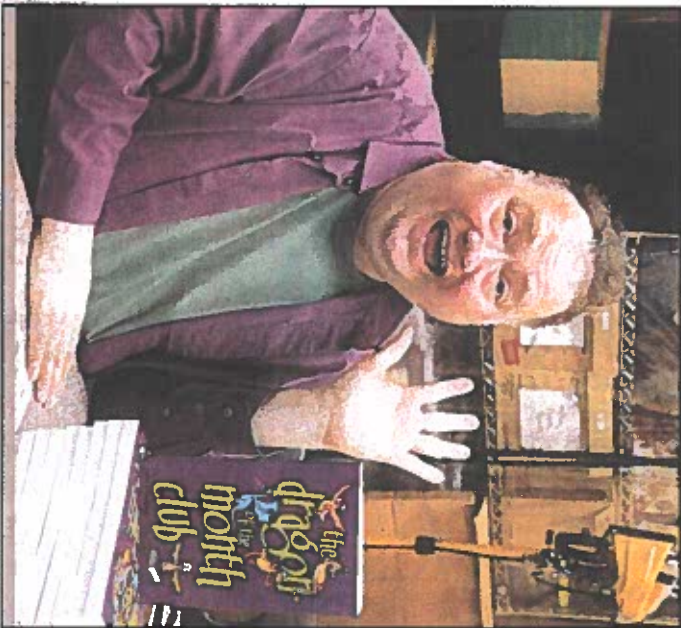


News

Author brings dragons to Drayton Valley Municipal Library

Cathy Weelman
Western Review

May 3, where he spoke about how he was inspired to write his latest book, called "Dragon of the Month Club". This is the first installment in a new book series that



Children's author Iain Reading talked about his latest book, "Dragon of the Month Club" at the Drayton Valley Municipal Library May 3.

tells the story of Ayana Fall and Tyler Travers, two best friends who stumble across an extraordinary magical book. They soon find themselves enrolled as members of a very special and

exclusive club, called The Dragon of the Month Club. On the thirtieth of every month, a new dragon conjuring spell is revealed and the friends attempt to summon the latest Dragon of the Month. One day a conjuring spell goes wrong and the friends find themselves drawn into a fantastical world of adventure based on the various books scattered across Tyler's messy bedroom. The friends travel from one book-inspired world to the next with nothing to rely on but their wits and a cast of strange and exotic dragons at their disposal and must find their way home again.

Reading draws inspiration from some of literature's most memorable stories - from 19th century German folk tales to the streets of Sherlock Holmes' London - and brings these stories to life in

strange and unexpected ways. As for the inspiration of the title and the book, Reading was relaxing one afternoon and thought, "If there's a Book of the Month Club and a Jelly of the Month Club, why can't there be a Dragon of the Month Club? At a writing retreat in Los Angeles, Reading began penning Dragon of the Month Club, starting with Chapter 9 which he wrote in two weeks. He had a few writing tips to give to the students who visited him at the library. "You should always write what you're capable of writing. Know your limitations. Put yourself in your writing. Take what happened to you and weave yourself into the story. Writing is like riding the subway. You know where you're getting on the train and where you're getting off. You know the stops along the way, but what's going to happen between each stop? Every one writes differently. Figure out how you will do it," said Reading.

He added that while writing The Dragon of the Month Club, he had to do a lot of research about Sherlock Holmes in London in order to master historical mysteries. "I had to read those books inside and out, including what underground lines there were in London at the time," said Reading, who currently resides in the Netherlands and works for the United Nations.

To date, Reading has written 15 children's books including the Kitty Hawk Flying Detective Agency series, The Wizards of Valentine and the Tragedy of the Titanic. He is also in the process of writing the second book in the Dragon of the Month

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