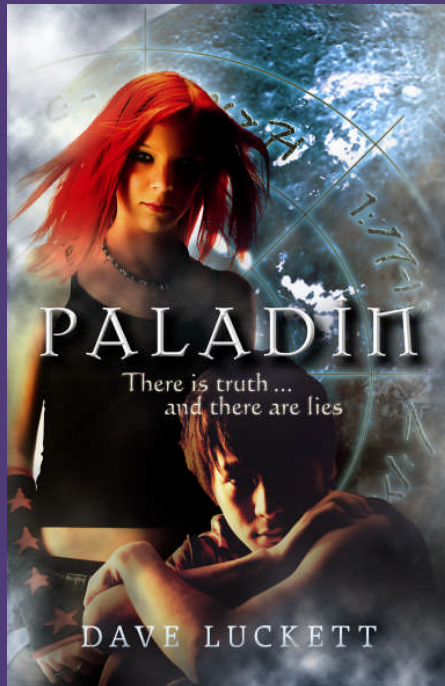


# Teachers' Notes

## Paladin

DAVE LUCKETT



### OMNIBUS BOOKS

Category	YA Fiction
Title	Paladin
Author	Dave Lockett
Publication date	August 2010
Format	208 x 135 mm
Extent	288 pp
Age	12+
Australian RRP	\$17.99
Binding	Paperback
Printing	Mono
ISBN	978 1 86291 867 2
Rights available	World ex ANZ

#### Previous publications

*Crooked Mick* (Omnibus Books, 2010)

The Rhianna series  
(Omnibus Books, 2000–2002)

The Tenabran Trilogy  
(Omnibus Books)

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## **SYNOPSIS**

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Sam works two jobs after school, one flipping burgers, and the other changing tyres. This seems to be his future until one day he and his kind-of friend, Finny, are 'recruited' by a world-shifting mage named Thorold. Thorold has come to find Sam to help fight a war against the evil Malficus, a powerful wizard who is menacing Westron with deathly Sendings.

Thorold has identified Sam as a powerful paladin, a travelling knight who decides on matters of justice and truth. However Sam is reluctant to leave his world and his mother. He feels he has responsibilities he must honour. So he returns to his own world leaving Finny, who has much less to come back for, to begin her studies as a fire mage.

Before long though, Sam is visited again by another mage from Westron who tells him he is urgently needed there because Finny has gone missing and they fear that she has gone over to the dark side. Knowing this cannot be true, Sam reluctantly agrees to journey to the Dark Queen's realm to find Finny and bring her back.

Sam is accompanied on his journey by another paladin, Sir Hugh, and along the way the mystery of the source of the Sendings deepens and Sam discovers that there is more to his paladin powers than he realised. Finny's questioning mind and unwillingness to accept what those in power are telling her she must believe, brings the two friends to the only possible conclusion. Things in this world are not as they seem.

Those in power have forgotten who they are serving.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

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Dave Lockett writes in many genres and for many age groups, but his first loves are fantasy and science fiction. He has won numerous awards, including three Aurealis Awards and a short-listing for the widely praised Tenabran Trilogy (*A Dark Winter, A Dark Journey and A Dark Victory*), and several of his books have also been published overseas. As well as the Tenabran Trilogy, Dave has written three novels for younger readers, two short fantasy novels for older readers, and the very popular Rhianna series, *Rhianna and the Wild Magic* (short-listed for the Western Australian Premier's 2000 Book Awards), *Rhianna and the Dogs of Iron*, and *Rhianna and the Castle of Avalon* as well as *The Truth About Magic* and *The Return of Rathalorn*. A great lover of cricket, he has recently compiled the *Kids' Ultimate Fan's Handbook* sponsored by Cricket Australia. *Iron Soldiers: A Story of Arms and Armour*, is another one of Dave's non-fiction books.

Although he was born in New South Wales, Dave has lived most of his life in Perth, Western Australia. He is married, with one son.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

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- Do the main characters Finny and Sam seem real and believable? Can you relate to their predicaments?
- What themes did the author emphasise throughout the novel? What do you think he is trying to get across to the reader? For example you might discuss the 'real' world versus the 'fantasy' world. Which is more real for Finny and Sam?
- What was unique about the setting of *Paladin* and how did it affect the story?
- How do the main characters change or evolve throughout the course of the story? What events trigger such changes?

## ACTIVITIES

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- In the story, Sam and Finny are brought to another world where they have different talents to the ones they have in their own world. Imagine you have shifted to another world, what would your talents be there? Write a short story about how you use them.
- Dave Lockett has used the idea of 'parallel universes' in *Paladin*. Research the history of this literary genre. How many novels have you read in which the characters 'shift worlds'? Make a list.
- Discuss the ways in which Sam's ability to magically 'see' truth and justice might be useful in our world. Research the principles of natural justice and discuss whether Sam's magical ability adheres to these rules.
- Describe the way that society is organised in Westron. Would you call it a monarchy or a democracy? Do the people of Westron enjoy equality and freedom? Are the leaders accountable to the people? Discuss.