

Teenage author brings book tour to local schools

By Nicole Tuttle , For The Macomb Daily
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Author Kyle Prue, 19, recently taught writing workshops, gave an assembly and visited students in a reading club at Jeannette Junior High School in Sterling Heights. Submitted photo



Author Kyle Prue recently gave an assembly on writing at Jeannette Junior High School in Sterling Heights. He is the author of the novel "The Sparks." Submitted photo

With a parental ban on Internet, cell phones and TV in place, Kyle Prue was suffering from a case of insomnia.

He found he had only one thing left to rely on: His imagination.

And the result was Prue's first novel, "The Sparks."

"Over the course of the summer I was writing constantly. It took three months to finish 'The Sparks.' I did not write with the intent to publish. I wrote because I was interested in the idea and getting it on paper," he said.

Prue's unplugged, sleepless summer at the age of 16 while living in Florida helped him produce the young adult fantasy novel about three families given superhuman abilities to protect their city. Centuries of fighting against each other have caused heavy casualties and an emperor now rules, but one teen in the Vapros family discovers a new power that could destroy the families and the established order.

With the encouragement of family and teachers, Prue decided to research and learn the process of getting published.

“The Sparks” was published in March 2015 through independent publishing house Barringer Publishing. Now 19, Prue has deferred going to the University of Michigan for a book tour.

“My time is split between writing, school visits and working with my non-profit organization Sparking Literacy,” Prue said.

Prue was inspired to create Sparking Literacy after a school visit in Florida during which he spoke to at-risk students. Sparking Literacy is dedicated to donating books to at-risk students in the schools Prue visits.

On Oct. 15, he will appear at Ernie’s Kings Mill on 19 Mile Road in Clinton Township at 6 p.m. for a Sparking Literacy event. Cost to attend is \$20 and the event is open to the public. Admission covers appetizers and a one-book donation for Chippewa Valley Schools students. The event will include a raffle and prizes, and Prue will also be selling and signing books.

Prue is set to make appearances at several Chippewa Valley schools including an Oct. 20 visit at Algonquin Middle School in Clinton Township, Oct. 21 Seneca Middle School in Macomb Township and Oct. 22 Wyandot Middle School in Clinton Township.

On Nov. 5, Prue will be at Armada Middle School and Armada High School.

Prue graduated in 2015 from Seacrest Country Day in Naples, Fla. He is currently a northern Michigan resident and will attend the University of Michigan with the class of 2020.

“The Sparks” is the first book in a trilogy of “The Feud” novels. It received two awards from the Florida Author’s and Publisher’s Association, which are the Gold Medal for Best Young Adult Book Florida 2015 and the Silver Medal National Award for Best Young Adult Fiction 2015. He also recently won a Moonbeam Children’s Book Award. “The Sparks” is currently available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon in paperback, Kindle and Nook formats as well as on kyleprue.com.

Prue is now at work on the second and third books in the series, “The Flames” and “The Ashes.” He spends a minimum of two hours per day writing and does school visits several times per week. Although he is currently touring schools in Michigan, the tour could expand to other states according to Prue.

“I have done a lot of re-writes. I’ve been working on it for about a year and I’ll probably finish this week and then it will go into the editing process,” Prue said of “The Flames.”

Prue said “The Flames” could possibly be available in 2016.

Prue is an aspiring actor and stand-up comedian. He trained at Second City for two summers, and will major in acting and creative writing at University of Michigan.