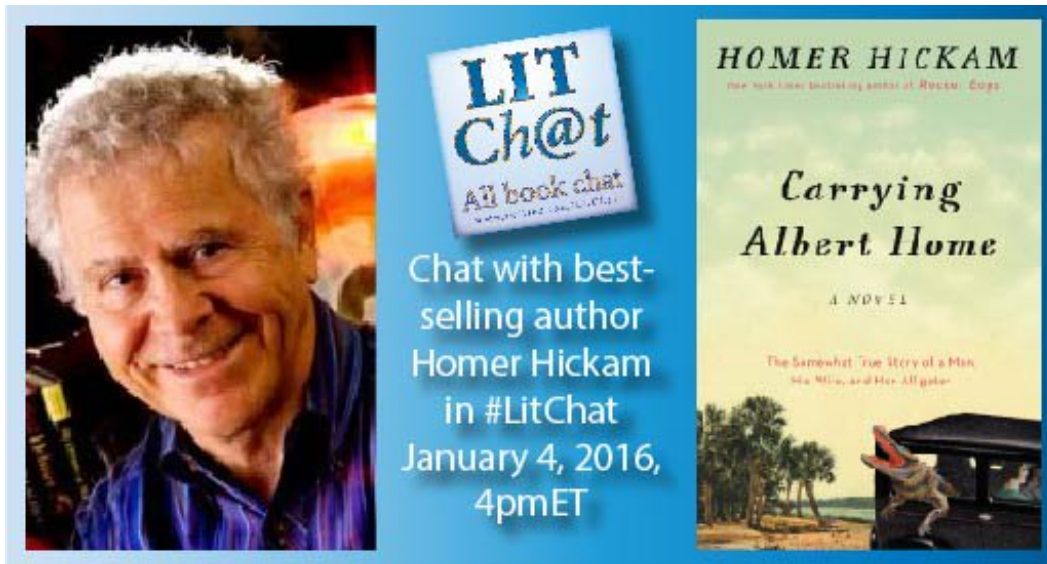


LitChat: Homer Hickam, Author

The following is the #LitChat conversation held through Twitter on January 4, 2016 with bestselling author Homer Hickam. #LitChat was founded and is moderated by Carolyn Burns Bass @LitChat). www.litchat.com



Welcome to #LitChat on this first Monday in 2016! We're thrilled to be here with bestselling author [@HomerHickam](https://twitter.com/HomerHickam). pic.twitter.com/TBcDtmLEj8

LITCHAT @LITCHAT · AN HOUR
AGO

LitChat
@LitChat

While #LitChat is underway with moderated convo from 4-5pmET, please don't use the hashtag unless contributing to topic. Thanks.

AN HOUR
AGO

LitChat
@LitChat


The easiest way to participate in #LitChat is through [@Nurph](https://twitter.com/Nurph). Just login at nurph.com/litchat, authorize and you're in the chat.

AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


#LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by [@CarolyBurnsBass](#) (@LitChat). Visit our website at litchat.com.

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Yep, here I am. Looking forward to the chat. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


While everyone is gathering, please introduce yourself and let the convo begin. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Welcome! It's great to have you here. RT [@HomerHickam](#) Yep, here I am. Looking forward to the chat. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory


[@HomerHickam](#) Hallo, Hallo Mr Hickam! Nice we had the chance to exchange a few tweets before the convo kicked off today! :) [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Well, I'm Homer Hickam and my latest is Carrying Albert Home, the Somewhat True Story of a Man, His Wife, and Her Alligator. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Hi Jorie Story. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Today's guest, @HomerHickam, is a bestselling author of fiction, nonfiction and memoir. His newest book is CARRYING ALBERT HOME. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


There's so much to cover with you, @HomerHickam. You've led a full life with many exciting adventures. Where shall we begin? #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Let's see... I've written a total of 18 books so far. Probably best known for Rocket Boys but Carrying Albert Home close behind. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Dawn Reno
Langley**
@proflangley

#LitChat I'm Dawn Reno Langley, a writer, from Durham, North Carolina.

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory


Hallo, @HomerHickam! I'm a #bookblogger who adores finding wicked sweet #newtomeauthors to read next! #LitChat twitter.com/HomerHickam/st...

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Could begin with when I became a writer and how. The third grade! #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Let's tell everyone that bestselling ROCKET BOYS was made into the delightful film, OCTOBER SKY. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



E.A. Hennessy
@EA_Hennessy


Hello from Liz in Buffalo NY :) Finally able to attend a #LitChat it's been forever

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Wrote about how I wrote RB and OS the film was made: homerhickam.com/project/from-r...
#LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Hi Liz. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory


@EA_Hennessy Nice to see your return! :) I haven't had the chance to come in quite awhile myself! New Year, New Litchats to enjoy! #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


What did you write in the 3rd grade that cemented the notion of becoming a writer?
@HomerHickam #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Great, Jorie. I think you'll like my stuff. It's eclectic, that much I can say! #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


(Aside here, @proflangley is my critique partner and a damn fine writer.) #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Short story about a boy who helped Horatio the Roman warrior. Teacher said I'd making my living as a writer someday. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory


@HomerHickam It would appear my #library has all of your #books; I'll have a happy time reading through them for sure! Love variety #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Hey professor. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Dawn Reno
Langley**
@proflangley


Hey Homer #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Love libraries and... librarians! #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



JennH
@lostringreatbook


Hello [@HomerHickam](#) - thanks for one of my favourite books of 2015! Carrying Albert Home was a wonderful read. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Oh thank you, Lostin! Albert was a challenge to write but glad I did. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory


[@HomerHickam](#) I do as well! I practically live at my [#library](#)! Always have -- so many worlds to explore, so many awesome STORIES :) [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


So many librarians, so little time. ;) That was my alter ego in The Dinosaur Hunter - Mike Wire - talking, not me. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Can you give us some insights on your path to publication? When did you begin to write seriously as a career? [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Dawn Reno
Langley**
@proflangley

Can you perhaps tell us what the genesis for your memoir was? And why you chose that topic after being successful with fiction? [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

First wrote for publication in scuba diving magazines in the 70's & 80's. I was a scuba instructor!
[#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Then dived on German U-boat off North Carolina & realized I had the makings of a book. First book Torpedo Junction. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


I bet teachers and friends to whom you wrote letters said, "You have a way with words."
[@HomerHickam](#) [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


I helped Tom Clancy w Red October. He would call and we would chat. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


That is just WOW. RT [@HomerHickam](#) I helped Tom Clancy w Red October. He would call and we would chat. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

That was before either Tom or I had been published book-length. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Red October & Torpedo Junction had same publisher Naval Inst. Press. TJ just recently optioned for film, BTW. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


I started my own paper in Coalwood when I was 7 years old. Mom shut it down when I wrote a story about her. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


I recall RED OCTOBER pressed by small military press. It was quite a deal in those days.
[@HomerHickam](#) [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory


[@HomerHickam](#) Definitely need to read Red October - meant to read it then see it, but did the opposite instead. lol Nice background! [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Tell us what you wrote about your dear mama in your personal newspaper... [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Yes. Of course, Tom's work took off. TJ came out in 1989. 9 years until I got Rocket Boys published. Then mine took off. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Chris Bollinger
@numinouscosmos


[@HomerHickam](#) What do you consider to be the greatest achievement in your richly-lived life?
[#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


I wrote a story about mom chasing a snake into the creek and falling down. It was very funny.
[#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


After Mom read my story, she took away my First Amendment rights. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Greatest achievement? I hope I haven't accomplished it yet. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

But maybe the scholarships I was able to create at Virginia Tech and Marshall University. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Bravo. RT [@HomerHickam](#) But maybe the scholarships I was able to create at Virginia Tech and Marshall University. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory


What do you enjoy writing most - [#biographicalfiction](#) OR straight-up fiction w/o ancestral inspirations? Which is easier? [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


I enjoy whatever I'm writing at the moment. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Dawn Reno
Langley**
@proflangley

I like your answer about greatest achievement. Not done yet! Can we talk about ageism in publishing? #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

There is a perception that authors wear out as they age. I hope to prove that perception wrong. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


The snake story segues perfectly into CARRYING ALBERT HOME. It is, after all, about your mother. And father. @HomerHickam #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Dawn Reno
Langley**
@proflangley

I like to think that wisdom comes with age -- and with having written about life for a while. You must have experiences to write. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


★ RT @HomerHickam There is a perception that authors wear out as they age. I hope to prove that perception wrong. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

True, and I've thought about a series set in Coalwood with young Sonny as the narrator. It would be tricky, though. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory

@HomerHickam How strange!?! There are writers of all ages creating wicked good stories & crafting us inside their worlds; hmm. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Well, used to authors drank a lot. It was almost a requirement. These days, we are perhaps more healthy. Hope so! #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

How old were you when you sold your first book? Do you mind sharing @HomerHickam? #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Lots of fans have asked me to write about my experience in Vietnam. So far, can't bring myself to do it. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


First book? Torpedo Junction in 1989 so I was 46! [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Dawn Reno
Langley**
@proflangley


Writing about experiences could free up some stories that you might be afraid to write. But they're always the best ones, no? [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

They are best - write what you know and all that. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


So true. RT [@HomerHickam](#) Lots of fans have asked me to write about my experience in Vietnam. So far, can't bring myself to do it. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory

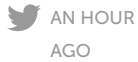
Now this is very encouraging! :) Wicked sweet! RT [@HomerHickam](#) First book? Torpedo Junction in 1989 so I was 46! [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



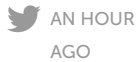
Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

I'm a late bloomer. ;) #LitChat



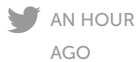
LitChat
@LitChat

RT @HomerHickam First book? Torpedo Junction in 1989 so I was 46! #LitChat



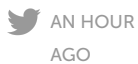
Jorie Loves A Story
@joriestory

@HomerHickam Aren't we all to some extent? #Writing evolves as we internalise our experiences and find their way to our pens :) #LitChat



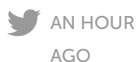
Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

I feel an almost obligation to keep writing about Coalwood. The people there cry out to me to not let them be forgotten. #LitChat



Dawn Reno Langley
@proflangley

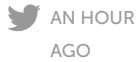
RT @joriestory #Writing evolves as we internalise our experiences and find their way to our pens :) #LitChat





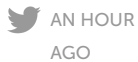
Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Agreed, Jorie. #LitChat



**Dawn Reno
Langley**
@proflangley

You've got to answer that call about Coalwood. #LitChat



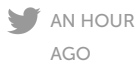
Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

There are times I'm writing and it's not me writing at all. I just get out of the way. #LitChat



LitChat
@LitChat

Why did it take so long for you to write CARRYING ALBERT HOME? There is so much to love in it. Alligators. Roosters. Buddy Ebsen! #LitChat



**Dawn Reno
Langley**
@proflangley

It's like closing your eyes and letting them tell the story through you, isn't it? #LitChat



LitChat
@LitChat

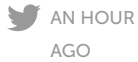
What is the current situation in Coalwood? How would the past help the future? @HomerHickam #LitChat





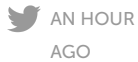
Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Thank you. I heard my mom in a dream tell me it was time to write Albert. True is. #LitChat



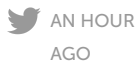
Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Coalwood is a shell of what it used to be. It's very sad. #LitChat



LitChat
@LitChat

★ RT @HomerHickam There are times I'm writing and it's not me writing at all. I just get out of the way. #LitChat



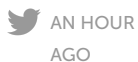
Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

McDowell, the county Coalwood is in, is the poorest in the USA. #LitChat



LitChat
@LitChat

West Virginia mountains, folks. RT @HomerHickam McDowell, the county Coalwood is in, is the poorest in the USA. #LitChat



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


It breaks my heart every time I go back to Coalwood. I lived there when it was relatively prosperous and the people all had jobs. #LitChat





Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

We had a Rocket Boys Festival for 13 years in Coalwood but the town got too small and old to support it. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory


@LitChat @HomerHickam Yes, I had a feeling this was where Coalwood was located. I know a bit about coal country; had a friend there #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Now the festival is in Beckley, WV. rocketboysfestival.com #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory


@HomerHickam I remember reading about the Rocket Boys Festival! I always felt it would have been keen to attend it. #sosad :(#LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

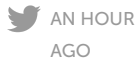
So glad the festival remains. RT @HomerHickam Now the festival is in Beckley, WV. rocketboysfestival.com #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



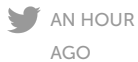
Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

I go every year, not to celebrate my book or the film, but to talk to WV students who need to hear from me & the other boys. #LitChat



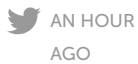
Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

It's the least I can do. #LitChat



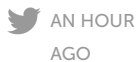
Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

So now I'm between books. Trying to decide what to write next. In no hurry. #LitChat



LitChat
@LitChat

My husband was an EMS heli pilot over much of that country for a while. Those mountains and hollows can be harsh. #LitChat



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

I know! I've been lost in them more than once as a kid. I was directionally challenged. #LitChat



Jorie Loves A Story
@joriestory


@HomerHickam I think taking a step back between books is helpful. Let yourself get emerged in the creative spirit as it alights :) #LitChat





LitChat
@LitChat


Do you have a ritual or any particular writing habits that you employ when you're working on a manuscript? [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


When I write, I don't think of much else than what I'm working on. I have to have an understanding wife and friends. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


Heading out to Los Angeles later this week, by the way, to continue the [#CarryingAlbertHome](#) tour. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Writing is like that, isn't it. Solitary. We can write in a noisy coffee shop, but watch out if the spouse interrupts when writing. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam


She can interrupt and I may even respond but I usually haven't heard her. OTOH, that's kind of a husbandly thing, anyway. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Do you set word counts, page counts, time counts or other writing challenges to spur you through the process? #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

No counts. I just work long hours, plowing thru. I know it's the rewrite where the magic comes in. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jorie Loves A
Story
@joriestory

What do you like to read in your downtime, when not thinking of plots & characters and want to read for the joy of it? #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

I usually read nonfiction but occasionally dip into fiction. Love Nelson DeMille. #LitChat

 44 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Back now to CARRYING ALBERT HOME. Do you think your mother would have approved of how you portrayed her? #LitChat

 44 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Read all the Patrick O'Brians, too. #LitChat

 44 MINUTES AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@HomerHickam](#) Ah! You've mentioned an author I've had my eye on; where should I start w/ his books? Any one being a favourite? [#LitChat](#)



44 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam

@HomerHickam

I think Mom would have been secretly pleased but probably wouldn't have admitted it. [#LitChat](#)



43 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam

@HomerHickam

The Gold Coast is Nelson's best work. [#LitChat](#)



43 MINUTES AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@HomerHickam](#) Definitely an author will be reading in length! (Patrick O'Brian) saw film before realised it was based on his novels [#LitChat](#)



42 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam

@HomerHickam

O'Brian, of course, wrote the Master & Commander series. They're all gems. [#LitChat](#)



42 MINUTES AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@HomerHickam](#) I think I'll start there then! I look at Nelson's books at different times and wonder where to even begin! lol [#LitChat](#)



42 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I confess, while reading CARRYING ALBERT HOME, I didn't always *like* the character of your mother. She was too big for the page. [#LitChat](#)

 41 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Gold Coast, for sure. His later work is much more superficial but still enjoyable. [#LitChat](#)

 41 MINUTES AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory

[@HomerHickam](#) Part of me wished I had been clued into knowing that (about Master & Commander) other half loved the breadth of film [#LitChat](#)

 41 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Yes, Elsie isn't always liked by readers but I hope they respect her by the end. [#LitChat](#)

 41 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

In being "too big for the page," I also empathize with her being too big for her life. I understand that feeling. [#LitChat](#)

 40 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

She was a woman of vast talent & ambitions sentenced to a "small" life in Coalwood. [#LitChat](#)

 40 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Exactly. RT [@HomerHickam](#) She was a woman of vast talent & ambitions sentenced to a "small" life in Coalwood. [#LitChat](#)

 40 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

What challenges did you have in recreating your father and your mother as if it were fiction?
[#LitChat](#)

 40 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

The movie October Sky sort of hurt her feelings. It showed her so compliant & a bit of a wimp.
[#LitChat](#)

 39 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

It was a vast challenge. I had to find them as they were not as I knew them. I did what all writers do. I suffered. [#LitChat](#)

 39 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

The film did. RT [@HomerHickam](#) The movie October Sky sort of hurt her feelings. It showed her so compliant & a bit of a wimp. [#LitChat](#)

 39 MINUTES AGO



Jorie Loves A Story
@joriestory

Thanks for your recommendation; I agree, sometimes latter works can strain the joy of earlier works; will start where you said :) [#LitChat](#)

 38 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

I apologized to her for October Sky the film but then she got into it when people started paying attention to her! :) [#LitChat](#)

 38 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

She liked how I wrote about her in Rocket Boys, The Coalwood Way, & Sky of Stone. [#LitChat](#)

 37 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Did you approach CARRYING ALBERT HOME with any sense of obligation to your parents?
[#LitChat](#)

 37 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Yes but I needed to make them as real as I could, warts and all. [#LitChat](#)

 37 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

There is such a gray area between truth and facts. What did you use as a guide through the gray areas? [#LitChat](#)

 36 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Albert sort of flipped them as they were in Rocket Boys on their heads. But it showed how much Dad loved her. [#LitChat](#)

 35 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

I set out to make Albert a family legend to include fantasy so I had some leeway. Still, there has to be a balance. #LitChat

 34 MINUTES AGO



Judith van Praag
@DutchessAbroad

HNY all + @HomerHickam late to #LitChat so sorry missed good convo, only 15' to go #LitChat

 34 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Rocket Boys & the other memoirs required walking on a narrower path. #LitChat

 33 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Were all of the incidents such as the bootleggers, the union strikers, etc. true? Or did you add incidents for add'l drama? #LitChat

 33 MINUTES AGO



Jorie Loves A Story
@joriestory

@HomerHickam Writing real-life is difficult. I give credit to all authors who find the balance between the living truth & the story #LitChat

 33 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

I call memoirs "novoirs" because they are true stories that use fictional techniques. #LitChat

 33 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Great term! RT [@HomerHickam](#) I call memoirs "noivoirs" because they are true stories that use fictional techniques. [#LitChat](#)

 32 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

For instance, Rocket Boys has composite characters & I juggled sequences & put words in the mouths of real people. [#LitChat](#)

 32 MINUTES AGO



Judith van Praag
@DutchessAbroad

Making character [#FamilyLegend](#) gives leeway to [#author](#) ~ [@HomerHickam](#) [#Litchat](#)

 32 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Yet, I never once had a real person in my memoirs tell me he/she didn't say that! In fact, they were sure they did! [#LitChat](#)

 31 MINUTES AGO



Judith van Praag
@DutchessAbroad

Waiting for [#Noirevoirs](#) after [#Novoires](#) coined by [@HomerHickam](#) for memoirs using fictional techniques [#Litchat](#)

 31 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

All of "Albert" is true except for the parts there aren't and they're true, too. If you get my drift. [#LitChat](#)

 31 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

There is evidence for all that I wrote in "Albert" but it is fiction. #LitChat

 30 MINUTES AGO



Judith van Praag
@DutchessAbroad

#Storytellers get creative license #LitChat #LitChat

 30 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Thank you, Dutchess. #LitChat

 30 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Traveling by car was quite different in those days. I loved the adventures, the sights, the people they met on the road. #LitChat

 30 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

I talked to folks who drove in the 1930's to imagine what it was like. No McDonald's, no motels, sometimes no asphalt! #LitChat

 29 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

No rest stops with flushing toilets and running water. #LitChat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Judith van Praag
@DutchessAbroad

@LitChat give them time to see details #writers room to muse and build believable engaging #story #Litchat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Yes, fiction or nonfiction or memoirs or whatever, ultimately the reader has to believe it really could happen! #LitChat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Judith van Praag
@DutchessAbroad

@LitChat LOL associations a plenty #Litchat #pitstops in the wild #LitChat

 28 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

What was the most surprising thing you learned about your mother and/or your father while researching/writing CARRYING ALBERT HOME? #LitChat

 27 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

But I think what people are really interested in is other people so the challenge is to write about interesting people! #LitChat

 27 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

When I put all their stories together for Albert, I realized it was their way of telling me how they stayed married all those years #LitChat

 26 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

That was the surprise, putting the stories in sequence & realizing it was a love story. #LitChat

 26 MINUTES AGO



Judith van Praag
@DutchessAbroad

@HomerHickam that's beautiful, plus I recognize that from my own #writing about #parents in #novel #LitChat

 25 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Neither Homer or Elsie in "Albert" are perfect in any way. Each had flaws but that's what made them interesting. #LitChat

 25 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Here's a hard question. (Pass if you want.) After studying their marriage, do you think it would have survived in today's culture? #LitChat

 25 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

★ RT @HomerHickam Neither Homer or Elsie in "Albert" are perfect in any way. Each had flaws but that's what made them interesting. #LitChat

 25 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

I'm not sure their marriage would've survived today. #LitChat

 24 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Flaws are what makes literary characters interesting. Fictional or historical characters. #LitChat

 24 MINUTES AGO



Judith van Praag
@DutchessAbroad

#Marriage is #work in any era. Perseverance is trait not all people nor characters have. #LitChat
Like #reading about that. #LitChat

 24 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Today, there are too many examples of divorce. In my parents' day, it just wasn't done much.
#LitChat

 23 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Would Elsie have left Homer in later years had they lived today. Well, neither would have been the same person so hard to say. #LitChat

 22 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

So true, @DutchessAbroad. Marriage is work that can be rewarding or not. #LitChat

 22 MINUTES AGO



Judith van Praag
@DutchessAbroad

And only now do I find out who, or what Albert is @HomerHickam #LitChat What characters!
#LitChat

 22 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Well, I've been divorced and it's awful when it happens. [#LitChat](#)

21 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

That's it exactly, @HomerHickam. They both would have been forged differently in today's culture. [#LitChat](#)

21 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Haha. Albert is an alligator, of course! [#LitChat](#)

21 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

And the nicest, sweetest, happiest alligator you will ever meet! [#LitChat](#)

21 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Tell us briefly about Buddy Epsen. He is a fascinating side character. [#LitChat](#)

21 MINUTES AGO



Judith van Praag
@DutchessAbroad

Got to go, great chatting, have fun on [#booktour](#) @HomerHickum bye [@LitChat](#) ttyl! [#Litchat](#)

21 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Waving. RT [@DutchessAbroad](#) Got to go, great chatting, have fun on [#booktour](#) @HomerHickum bye [@LitChat](#) ttyl! [#LitChat](#)

20 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Buddy Ebsen was a famous dancer & movie actor best known for Uncle Jed in tv series The Beverly Hillbillies. #LitChat

 20 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Oops... that would be E*B*sen. Sorry. #LitChat

 20 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Mom (Elsie) met Buddy before he became famous. They were girlfriend/boyfriend but he left for Hollywood. He gave her Albert. #LitChat

 19 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Bye Dutchess! #LitChat

 19 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Final question for @HomerHickam: What did you learn about yourself while writing CARRYING ALBERT HOME? #LitChat

 18 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

This has been fun. Ask me back anytime! #LitChat

 18 MINUTES AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

I enjoyed getting to know a [#newtomeauthor](#) today on [@LitChat](#)! Thx for the convo [@HomerHickam](#)! Will tweet you as I read your books! [#LitChat](#)

 18 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam

@HomerHickam

Learn about myself? That I am so lucky to have [@WmMorrow](#) as my publisher & [@KateNintzel](#) as my editor! [#LitChat](#)

 17 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam

@HomerHickam

Actually, I'm about the luckiest fellow who ever walked on this planet. So far, so good. [#LitChat](#)

 16 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam

@HomerHickam

I'm also very lucky to have had such interesting parents@ ;) [#LitChat](#)

 16 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

You know luck has nothing to do with it. How about ABILITY? IMAGINATION? DETERMINATION? PRODUCTIVITY? You got that [@HomerHickam](#). [#LitChat](#)

 16 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam

@HomerHickam

Naturally, I wouldn't disagree. ;) [#LitChat](#)

 15 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

How's this for interesting parents... my father was a sword swallower. My mother was a closet chanteuse. Really. #LitChat

 15 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Shazam! I'd get busy on that memoir! #LitChat

 15 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

We've loved having @HomerHickam with us today in #LitChat. Read more about him at homerhickam.com #LitChat

 15 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Thank you for having me! #LitChat

 14 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam
@HomerHickam

Ciao! #LitChat

 14 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Let's give @HomerHickam a HUGE round of #LitChat THANKS for joining us. {{{APPLAUSE}}}
#LitChat

 14 MINUTES AGO



Homer Hickam

@HomerHickam

Awww... I had fun. #LitChat



14 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Be sure to return next week when @Andrew_Grant is here to discuss his new crime thriller, FALSE POSITIVE. See you then! #LitChat



13 MINUTES AGO