

**UK pupils encouraged to solve 'Book of Shadows' mystery in latest  
'Quest for Knowledge' mission from children's Author *Justin Richards***

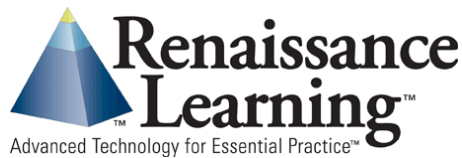
Open to all UK Primary and Secondary schools, the latest 'mission' in Renaissance Learning's '**Quest for Knowledge**' comes from popular children's Author **Justin Richards**. A writer of numerous books, audio scripts, television and stage plays, Justin has based his 'mission' around **Eddie** – the star of **The Death Collector** and **The Parliament of Blood**. UK school children are encouraged to solve the mystery of 'The Book of Shadows' for the chance to win exclusive prizes and the opportunity to interview Justin.

Free to enter until 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 at [www.watchthemgrow.co.uk/quest](http://www.watchthemgrow.co.uk/quest), the 'Quest' culminates at Renaissance Learning's National Conference. Taking place at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, on 18-19<sup>th</sup> March 2010, this exciting event will be opened by **Prof. David Jesson** and feature talks and presentations from leading Authors, such as **Jacqueline Wilson** and new Children's Laureate **Anthony Browne** – visit [www.renlearn.co.uk](http://www.renlearn.co.uk) for more information.

Justin Richards, Author, comments:

*"Anything that gets children reading is to be applauded. In today's distracting world, the notion of combining characters and situations from the best children's books with the multi-media interactivity of the web has got to be a winner! I've had such a great time devising a 'quest' for my character – Eddie – and I hope the children have half as much fun as I have.*

*Eddie's a character from my books **The Death Collector** and **The Parliament of Blood**, and he'll be back again in April 2010 in **The Chamber of Shadows** – when he and his friends from the British Museum's Department of Unclassified Artefacts take on a new challenge in the dark, dangerous streets of Victorian London. They've defeated steam-driven dinosaurs, fought off vampires, and next time they'll be up against an ancient enemy and the gruesome Tick-Tock killer...But for now, on the Quest for Knowledge website ([www.watchthemgrow.co.uk/quest](http://www.watchthemgrow.co.uk/quest)), they have another spooky mystery to solve..."*



Dirk Foch, Managing Director, Renaissance Learning UK Ltd., comments:

*“The ‘Quest for Knowledge’ has been a fantastic way of encouraging children of all ages and abilities to pick up a book and actually enjoy reading it. We are very grateful to Justin for the time he has taken to put this particularly creative ‘mission’ together, which is sure to test the detective skills of everyone that participates.”*

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#### **About Renaissance Learning UK Limited**

Renaissance Learning UK Limited is a subsidiary of Renaissance Learning Inc, founded in Wisconsin (USA) in 1986. Renaissance Learning UK Ltd is a leading provider of educational solutions to primary and secondary schools across the United Kingdom.

Adopted by more than 74,000 schools worldwide and used by over 250,000 children in the UK every day, Renaissance Learning produces the world's most widely used reading software, Accelerated Reader Advantage, and the world's most successful maths software, Accelerated Maths Advantage.

Renaissance works closely with the National Literacy Trust, the National Education Trust and Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, and is supported by best-selling authors for children, such as Malorie Blackman, Peter J Murray and GP Taylor.