

## Sciarra releases sequel to Shoestrings - No Time For Dinosaurs

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Author John Benjamin Sciarra recently released the second book in the Shoestrings series, Shoestrings—Paradox. This is the story of three children caught in a time machine of their physicist father's design, and continues with Kyle caught in a strange world where dinosaurs and humans coexist. Characters in the story are not always who or what they appear to be.

“There are just many surprises in Paradox as there were in the first book—maybe more,” says Sciarra who has been successful in marketing the series to elementary and middle schools throughout New England. “The story revolves around some very sophisticated sciences including quantum physics, relativity, string theory (the concept behind the name Shoestrings) and harmonics which the kids understand at a young age.” The success of the series, according to Sciarra, is that the novels don't talk down to children. Fast-paced action and constant cliffhangers keep the children riveted and absorbed in the plot. “Children easily identify with the characters because they are believable. They solve problems with their powers of observation and creativity—using their minds rather than sorcery or witchcraft.”

Children from several schools in New York recently sent letters to Sciarra asking him questions about the books, following a visit by the author. As the former Curator for a major public aquarium, Sciarra's animal experiences helped him imagine how the dinosaurs might have behaved, and he drew on that knowledge to create believable animals. Many of the questions the children asked were about the dinosaurs, and Sciarra answered every one of the letters personally. “Children speak from the heart and that is so refreshing. The questions they come up with are amazing. If you stimulate them at such a young and malleable age, they realize that anything is attainable to them if they put their minds to it, whether it is a career in the sciences, arts, music or writing. If I reach even a few children with my books, I find that exceedingly satisfying.”

Along with the two books, Sciarra has created an unusual marketing tool: a motivational literacy program for schools that he offers free with the order of any books. The program consists of study guides and glossaries for each of the books, a play the children can perform and several articles on the science behind the stories. Also included are articles on the writing behind the books and the publishing process—how a book goes from conception to printing—and includes another program where the students can create their own publishing company and actually publish a book.

Paradox also contains several illustrations of some of the book's fascinating creatures by paleontologist/scientific illustrator Keith M. Cowley, including a strange aquatic dinosaur conceived by the minds of Sciarra and Cowley. “The aquatic dinosaurs are one area where very little is known since fossils in the world's oceans are few. Keith and I designed a rather unusual creature that plays out in part of the story in Paradox and will continue on into the next book, Shoestrings—The Monster in the Lake.

The Shoestrings books can be purchased from Ingram, Baker and Taylor and at all online venues. Schools are encouraged to contact Sciarra directly, since he offers books to schools at wholesale prices. The books are also available at several independent bookstores as well as through Borders Books. Bulk discounts are available to school districts and retail outlets by contacting the publisher.

Wild Animal Publishing Company is dedicated to publishing high quality books for children and adults.

John Benjamin Sciarra  
Wild Animal Publishing Company  
246 Meridian St.  
Groton, CT 06340  
(860) 446-1156 or (860) 961-9374  
[sciarrajb@aol.com](mailto:sciarrajb@aol.com)  
[www.johnbenjaminosciarra.com](http://www.johnbenjaminosciarra.com)

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