

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Swindells left school at fifteen and worked as a copyholder on a local newspaper. At seventeen he joined the RAF for three years, two of which he served in Germany. He then worked as a clerk, an engineer and a printer before training and working as a teacher. He is now a full-time writer and lives on the Yorkshire moors.

He has written many books for young readers, including many for the Transworld children's lists, his first of which, *Room 13* won the 1990 Children's Book Award, whilst his latest, *Abomination*, won the 1999 Stockport Children's Book Award and the Sheffield Children's

Book Award and was shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize, the Lancashire Children's Book Award and the 1999 Children's Book Award. His books for older readers include *Stone Cold*, which won the 1994 Carnegie Medal, as well as the award-winning *Brother in the Land*. As well as writing, Robert Swindells enjoys keeping fit, travelling and reading.