

# Lucas Lightfoot Book Series

For Immediate Release

Contact: Hugo Haselhuhn

Phone: (805) 400-5414

Email: [hugo@lucaslightfoot.com](mailto:hugo@lucaslightfoot.com)

Website: [www.lucaslightfoot.com](http://www.lucaslightfoot.com)

Publisher: Morgan James Publishing

Contact: Nickcole Watkins

Marketing Manager

(516) 900-5674

[Nickcole@morganjamespublishing.com](mailto:Nickcole@morganjamespublishing.com)



## Author Information

The Lucas Lightfoot book series is a collaboration between a grandfather, Hugo Haselhuhn and his grandson, Luke Cowdell. *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal* began as a request from my grandson, Luke, to help him write a “chapter book.” It’s a special young man, who, at the age of seven, announces to his mother that he wants to write a chapter book. It’s a special mother who has the belief that he can and she will do everything possible to help her son fulfill his dream.

**Genre:** Magical Realism; Children’s Fantasy & Magic

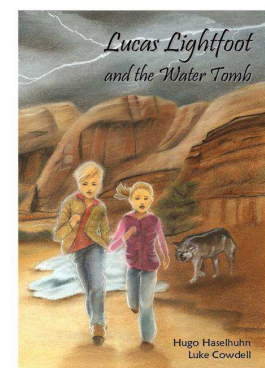
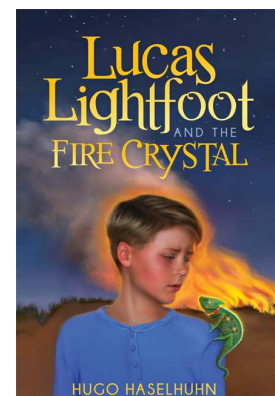
**Theme:** You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have.

**Quick Pitch:** An exciting story of magic, fun and challenges for grade school children (7-12 years old) that pulls the reader into the life of the hero and the supporting characters and teaches valuable lessons about the mind, attitudes, integrity and choices.

**Synopsis:** In *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal*, Lucas Lightfoot considers himself to be a regular boy, yearning to be like the heroes in the books he reads. His quiet life changes when he finds a chameleon – Prescott, a mysterious and magical lizard. Prescott teaches Lucas powerful secrets that go way beyond the magic any young boy would love to have. With this power, Lucas realizes he can change the relationship with a special girl in his class and maybe even the class bully. Learning to control this new power with his head and his heart, Lucas recognizes the greatest change is the one taking place within. Lucas learns just how strong he can be when being strong is his only choice. His biggest challenge comes when Lucas must overcome his greatest fear to save the life of a friend and a helpless stranger. There has never been another with the birthright legacy before Lucas and he must be protected from the enemy until he develops the strength to fight the forces that would steal his light and destroy him. Will Lucas have the courage to meet the challenges on the path before him?

In *Lucas Lightfoot and the Water Tomb*, Lucas is given new powers as he continues his training with Prescott. Lucas is challenged by a far more deadly bully that will stop at nothing to take light and power from Lucas. As Lucas summons the courage to protect himself and his family, he finds new friends in nature that support him in his fight to stay alive.

In *Lucas Lightfoot and the Sun Stone*, Lucas learns that he has the



birthright to become a great Light Bearer. There are dark forces which attempt to thwart him from his destiny. Lucas and Hailey travel to Africa, Europe and South America to be taught by the Master Light Bearers. From each, they are given a key that they must protect and use to unlock the Sun Stone. It's up to Lucas to learn to use the power given to him to help those in need and expose those who destroy his light. Lucas learns his greatest power is in his heart.

**Bio:** Hugo Haselhuhn lives in San Luis Obispo County. He enjoys reading, writing stories and poetry, cooking and traveling with his bride of 44 years. They have five children and 14 grandchildren. As a teacher, he knows how to grab the student's attention and can find positive lessons in everyday experiences. By day, Hugo is a creative design engineer and by night he is a creative story teller with designs on improving the lives of children. As a wordsmith, he has created an outlet for the adventures that children everywhere would enjoy as they become the hero.



Luke Cowdell lives in Orange County and is in the 5th grade. He loves BMX racing, riding his motorcycle in the desert and playing both Minecraft and Terrenia. He is an avid reader with an active imagination. Luke is also a deep thinker who asks questions seemingly beyond his years. When he was seven years old, Luke decided he wanted to write a chapter book and *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal* was born as a result from him asking for help in writing a chapter book. Luke told his grandpa where he wanted to go with this book, and Hugo created the road, painted the scenery and together they created the characters and adventures along the way.

## Book Release

Morgan James Publishing released *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal* in July 2016. We are scheduling book signings at book stores this summer and at schools when students return to the classroom. Contact me by email or phone. Hugo and his grandson Luke will be available to sign books at book stores through the summer before Luke returns to school in the fall.

## Author Q&A

**Q:** Why did you write this book(s)

**A:** *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal* began as a request from my grandson, Luke, to help him write a "chapter book." It's a special young man, who, at the age of seven, announces to his mother that he wants to write a chapter book. It's a special mother who has the belief that he can and she will do everything possible to help her son fulfill his dream. So what does this special mother do? She says, "I bet Grandpa Hugo can help you." Of course I had to say yes! As I continue to write, it is to transport children of all ages to a place between reality and fantasy so they can learn through the choices and experiences of the characters. I write to change the world, one child at a time.

**Q:** Where did you get the name Lucas Lightfoot? Is Lucas your grandson?

A: Well, Lucas Lightfoot could be my grandson and maybe I could be Prescott. The name we chose, though, is significant. Lucas means “light” and Lightfoot is an old English name given to a quick messenger. Lucas Lightfoot is a “quick messenger of light.”

Q: What do you hope to accomplish with these book?

A: Through the story, my goal is to entertain and to teach. The ultimate purpose of teaching is to change lives. The story includes:

- Importance of choice and accountability.
- Value of learning and improving the mind.
- Attitude and belief in one’s ability to help others.
- Integrity and honesty are still valuable traits.
- Value of love, understanding and gratitude.

I am sharing important values to a rising generation that is bombarded with anti-heroes who embody the traits of selfishness, lying, power-seeking and bullying. The positive ideas in the book are expressed as the magical mentor helps a young boy become the hero he dreams to be. There is excitement, danger and challenges throughout the story.

Q: Did you or Luke write the book?

A: Luke is the idea source and I do the writing. He wanted to write a book about a Lunch-Time Hero. Together, we took that idea and expanded it to a full chapter book for 7-12 year old children. My grandson and I discuss the characters and events in the book. Together we worked on the various powers that Lucas Lightfoot learns to use.

Q: Where do you get your ideas for the story?

A: Actually, many ideas in the book have come from the life of my grandson and many ideas are just from my imagination.

- My grandson/co-author really did find a chameleon in front of his house which they named Prescott.
- Prescott really was living “in the wilds of Orange County” for about a year.
- My grandson’s uncle is a firefighter and was caught on the ridge with fire all around. His crew barely made it safely into their fireproof cocoons before the fire swept over them. In real life they all survived.
- My grandson’s school in Orange County has an award-winning garden.
- My grandson hangouts on the tire swing and the trampoline in the yard with his friends.

Q: Do you ever have any speaking engagements?

A: Yes! We really want to make a positive impact on our readers. One way is to visit elementary schools and give our M.A.G.I.C. presentation and share the values in the book. M.A.G.I.C. is an acronym for Mind, Attitude, Goal, Integrity and Choice. My grandson cannot be at most of the school presentations because he is in school himself. During the presentation I show a video clip of my daughter and grandson talking about goals. The students watching the video are focused and attentive as they see a boy their age published a book, and they too can do wonderful things as well.

Q: Do you have a favorite author?

A: I really enjoy Steve Berry’s books with retired spy Cotton Malone character. Berry always weaves in a lot of historical truth mixed with his brand of fiction. I also enjoy books on

Neuro-Linguistic Programming and have woven a few of these skills into the book and in the presentation. Luke has all of the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan, Maze Runner series by James Dashner and Harry Potter by J. K. Rowling. Luke is an avid reader, so much so, that in the fifth grade, Luke won an award from his school because he read more books than any other student.

**Q:** Did you originally self-publish the book?

**A:** Yes. As I mentioned, I wanted to help my grandson publish a book and self-publishing was the fastest way to accomplish the goal. After we self-published the Fire Crystal in 2013 and the Water Tomb in 2014 through CreateSpace, we were fortunate to have Morgan James agree to publish the Fire Crystal in 2015. Additional chapters and illustrations were added and a new book cover was created for the Morgan James edition.

**Q:** Should parents read the books with their children?

**A:** Teachers, parents and grandparents have told me over and over how wonderful it is to read Lucas Lightfoot with their children and grandchildren. There are moral lessons woven throughout the story that can start important discussions. Reading with children will give you an opportunity to discuss the deeper meanings found in the story. Each chapter begins with an epigram that gives a hint of the moral lesson in the chapter and can become a starting point of significant discussions between parents and children as they explore the meaning which allows the children to reach a little deeper into their lives to see how it can affect them. The adventures found in the Lucas Lightfoot books will engage your children's interests and speak to their emotional needs. The readers are learning through the eyes and experiences of the characters.

**Q:** Why would I want my child to read this book?

**A:** There can be many reasons besides just the pure fun and excitement of the story. Here are a few reasons.

**Respect:** When my children were teenagers there was a certain primetime cartoon show that I did not want in our home. The boy character was always showing disrespect for the father disguised as humor and the father was regularly presented as stupid. The writers of the show were aiming the humor at children viewers because I am sure kids would like to think themselves smarter than their parents. Children learn by example and that was a negative trait I did not want for my children. The young characters in the Lucas Lightfoot books are respectful of the adults. There are a few adult characters that do not deserve respect, only sympathy.

**Bullies:** Lucas explores with his teacher some of the reasons why bullies act the way they do. Rather than retaliate against the bully, Lucas tries to understand why the bully treats others badly. The conversation Lucas has with Kevin is not too different from an actual experience shared with me by a friend. His eight-year-old son asked the bully at school why he treated him so badly. The bully replied he wanted attention. My friend's son offered to be his friend and play together at school. This same eight-year old boy was heard to say that he and friends were playing Lucas Lightfoot on the playground at school and using different powers in their imagination. Lucas thinks that if he uses his magical power, he can help the bully learn to be kind to others. This backfires on Lucas and he realizes that he is now the bully. The reader learns that if one is not careful, they can unwittingly become a bully.

No Short Cuts: Children learn by playing and develop skills for life. One important skill is the ability to work and enjoy the rewards. When “things” are given to you without the prerequisite of work, there is a lack of appreciation and an attitude of entitlement. Lucas is given the assignment to do some chores for his mother. He agrees readily, but sees an opportunity to use a little magical power he has been given to let the magic do the work. (Think of Disney’s cartoon, with Mickey Mouse as The Sorcerer’s Apprentice.) Lucas has been warned to use his power only for good and unselfish reasons. Forgetting this counsel, Lucas uses the power of telekinesis to rake and sweep the leaves from the front yard only to see his efforts have backfired on him. His mentor, Prescott, asks with some possible sarcasm, “Having a little trouble sweeping the porch?” Lucas realizes that there is no short cut to work and gets out the broom.

**Q:** What are your future plans for Lucas Lightfoot?

**A:** In many of our classroom visits, the students want to know how many books we plan to write and if there’s going to be a Lucas Lightfoot movie. Luke and I will release the second book, *Lucas Lightfoot and the Water Tomb*, through Morgan James Publishing this fall. The third book, *Lucas Lightfoot and the Sun Stone* will follow early next year. Beyond that, we have plans for at least two more Lucas Lightfoot books.

### **Information on the Book**

Book 1: *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal* (2015): 26,700 words, 135 pages, 15 chapters, 25 illus.

Book 2: *Lucas Lightfoot and the Water Tomb* (2017): 33,250 words, 211 pages, 15 chapters, 23 illustrations.

Book 3: *Lucas Lightfoot and the Sun Stone* (late 2017-18) with about 45,000 words, 22 chapters, 25 illustrations

### **Comments and Book Reviews**

#### **Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal**

“What a terrific book resulting from the collaboration of a grandfather and grandson. This book ignites the magic of reading for young readers and inspires older readers who read to them. In the era of video games this book reclaims the wonderful joy of reading. I personally liked it much better than the Harry Potter books. Highly recommended.”

Betty St. Louis

“*Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal* is a lovely tale about the adventures of Lucas and his chameleon. As a teacher, I have enjoyed this story immensely because it has a positive message and is relatable to my students. Sharing it with my students has opened the door for interesting, deep conversations. My students find the story "amazing" and "fun!" We are all waiting for the next installment to find out what Lucas and his chameleon are up to.”

Crystal Romans, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Herriman, UT

“*Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal* is an exceptional novel for several reasons. First and foremost, it is an enjoyable and engaging story. The entire plot is character driven, which is the key element to all great literature and storytelling. The characters are expertly developed so that

the reader genuinely cares about them. Second, the story contains essential ethical virtues all humans should follow. Most importantly, the values displayed in the story are subtle. Readers must discover the meaning and importance of each value on their own. In this way, the novel never comes across as moralistic or preachy. The authors accomplish this by simply having characters make choices which contain the natural, accompanying consequences. This is a delicate feat many novels are unable to accomplish. Third, the story involves a talking, magical chameleon. What could be better than that? Children and adults alike love stories about animals and magic. Fourth, it was written by an incredibly creative grandson and his grandfather. All children should be encouraged to develop the amazing creative, imaginative part of their brains. Finally, *Lucas Lightfoot* is reminiscent of the best novels author Orson Scott has written.”

Brad J., Santee, CA

“I thoroughly enjoyed reading *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal*. There is strong imagery throughout the story that brings the book to life in a very real and vibrant way. The book is masterfully written meshing magical elements and true-to-life circumstances into a believable world of fiction where Lucas learns lessons that easily apply to daily life. A great tale for any child to read with lasting wisdom that sheds deeper insight into choices relating to consequences and ultimately the decision to use the abilities we possess for the good of others. There are wonderfully imaginative elements within Hugo's storytelling, but perhaps the greatest brilliance in his work is the ability to create such an engaging narrative that strikes a rare balance of action, suspense, and humor along with well woven lessons of virtue, integrity, and empathy. As a teacher and writer I highly recommend that Lucas Lightfoot and his adventures become a welcomed addition into your home or class library. Bravo Hugo, you put a lot of light into those pages.”

James Ryan Orr, 4th Grade Teacher, Richlands, North Carolina

“The book itself is very exciting with good characters and an intriguing plot. Even if there wasn't a deeper meaning to everything, it would still stand on its own. Important skills and character traits are taught through the experiences of the main character. One that comes to mind immediately is the ability for Lucas to overcome fears. These are handled in a very practical way. We can also say that having personally witnessed our two children go through childhood, and now adolescence, the story is relevant. Although there is a moral undercurrent to the writing, it never comes across as preachy and supports any belief system that includes the foundation of "the golden rule." It is magical.”

Tim M. Templeton, CA

“After reading *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal* with our 8-year-old son, we are very anxious to get the second book of this very delightful and amazing book series. The storyline is captivating and very original. It is a real feel-good book with great morals and insights for young and old readers alike. Very refreshing! Our son has reread the book four times and I have heard him say that he and friends at school are playing Lucas Lightfoot on the playground and using “their power” for good.”

Lenny Z. Paso Robles, CA

“I sat down with my kids (aged 6- and 9-years old) to read them a chapter or two. After each chapter, I asked them if they wanted to continue or take a break and each time they cheered for more. We read the entire book cover to cover in one sitting. It's a fun story with some good values and wisdom woven in too.”

Trevor L. Templeton, CA

## Lucas Lightfoot and the Water Tomb

“What does today’s world need now? A hero. Lucas Lightfoot is our hero. He is the hero for our youth and our future. Authors Hugo Haselhuhn and Luke Cowdell have done it again. They have invoked young Lucas to represent the power of positive over the darkness of negativity and evil. I was hooked from the start with the vivid descriptions, the intrigue of a talking chameleon guiding the young hero, and the page-turning suspense. As a parent and teacher, I was captured by the action and integrity. The book speaks to children. It is relatable. Kids love powers and super heroes. Better yet, parents and teachers are attracted to this young book hero who has powers that are activated and strengthened by virtues. The power of communication and understanding of dialogue between light bearer and animal is a real draw for kids. Kids love animals. The author has a knack for kid connection. *Lucas Lightfoot and the Water Tomb* is sure to engage the audience of today’s youth while teaching lessons throughout the plot and building character simultaneously. It is like the perfect ice cream sundae with goodness and unselfish acts as the nuts and cherry on top. This book is an adventurous treat for children and adults alike. Find a young friend and read it together.”

Sandi M., 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, Templeton, CA

“In this suspenseful sequel to *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal*, the reader joins Lucas in his continuing quest to attain the virtue of a Light Bearer. My students used adjectives like “hypnotizing,” “mysterious,” and “superb” to describe the chapter they previewed. Young readers will be captivated by the plot of the story, but they won’t fail to recognize that the goodness in Lucas’s heart is the true source of his power. Hugo Haselhuhn and Luke Cowdell’s latest book is perfectly suited for the minds and hearts of children.”

Cindy M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, Templeton, CA