

Interview with Eli Ingle; Homeschooled Graduate & Professional Author

 sloah.com/2017/06/28/interview-with-eli-ingle

admin

June 28, 2017

When [homeschoolers](#) grow up, it's time to think about career plans and what sort of jobs they'd like to do. For some students, it's an easy decision; for others, there are a few curves in the path. In this interview with Eli Ingle, you're going to find out what one student has chosen to do.

Homeschooled graduates typically follow any of a wide range of career paths, from office workers to healthcare professionals and baristas to barristers. Many grads also choose to homeschool their future children, taking bespoke education to the next generation.

Today, I'm delighted to interview a recent homeschooled graduate who is writing his own success story as an author. (If you'd like to read a [free copy of his novel](#), *Rigel*, don't forget to check the link at the bottom of this article!)

Interview with Eli Ingle; Home Education

Q: How long were you home educated? What was your favourite aspect of home education?

A: I was taken out of school at the age of 13 and home educated up to my A-levels, which I took at home. My favourite aspect was definitely the freedom it offered. It also gave me the opportunity and drive to start writing, which I don't think I would have the time to do if I stayed at school. Art activities were very restricted at school – often 1 lesson (or less) a week. So, to be able to concentrate on writing was definitely my favourite aspect.



Eli Ingle receiving his A-Level exam results. Photo credit: Dave Higgins/PA Wire.

Interview with Eli Ingle; Career Path

Q: What made you decide to become an author?

A: I can't actually remember making a conscious decision to become an author – I'd always been into art ever since I was little. Over time, these developed into comics, then stop-motion animation, but I found myself spending more time making puppets and sets than doing the animating. Next, I got a typewriter for my 15th birthday and started writing on it. After a while, I think I preferred it because, so long as I had some paper, I could just make worlds appear and I didn't have to do spend months set building.

Q: Who are some of your favourite authors?

A: My favourite author is definitely Stephen King. I'm also a big fan of Agatha Christie, Terry Pratchett, and Christopher Paolini, although I read almost anything!

Q: How did homeschooling help you with your career path?

A: Homeschooling helped because I was always encouraged to be creative – something that never happened at school. I had a lot more time to practice writing and home education taught me how to self-study so it became natural to teach myself how to design front covers, typeset and make adverts. As part of being home educated, we also learned how to touch type which probably became one of my most useful skills as it means I can type really, really quickly!

Interview with Eli Ingle; Being an Author

Q: What does your writing space look like?

A: I don't have a specific writing space; I just sit on my bed! I do have a desk though, which gets used when I'm doing the other jobs such as formatting.

Q: Do you believe in writer's block?

A: I do believe in writer's block – unfortunately, I've had it a couple of times. When it happens I know the worst thing to do is try and force it, so I go for a bike ride or something and, usually in a day or so, a new idea comes along.

Q: What does literary success mean to you?

A: For most people, I guess literary success would be making millions selling your book. For me, I really just want people to love the story and the characters. I do like going on Amazon and [reading the nice reviews](#)* people put up for it and always appreciate it when someone takes the time to write a review for me.

Q: How long did it take you to write your first novel, *Rigel*?

A: Unhelpfully, I never actually wrote down how long it took me to write [Rigel](#)*! The original story, I think, took about 8 or 9 months. The editing and other jobs took longer. Fortunately, I've gotten faster at writing now that I've had more practice.

Q: What sort of research are you doing for your second novel, *Frivlok*?

A: I haven't done research for *Frivlok* as it's a continuation of *Rigel*. I did brush up on the first story again, though, as there's the potential for a lot of continuity errors with all the time travel!

Interview with Eli Ingle; Support & Inspiration

Q: Does your family support your career as a writer?

A: I definitely wouldn't have been able to even get as far as I have with *Rigel* without the support of my family. It would take several pages to tell you about it! But they read every first draft, helped me run through ideas, and were always there to talk. I'll forever be grateful for their support and for taking me out of school, without which I would have never been able to do this.



Eli Ingle and family. Photo credit: Eli Ingle.

Q: What advice would you give to a homeschooled student who is interested in a writing career?

A: I'm not sure I'm qualified to give advice yet! Just: practice, practice, practice. I was terrible when I started and wrote 3 books that were just awful but they taught me how to get better. Read a lot as well.

Q: What's your favourite inspirational book quote?

A: My favourite quote probably has to be from *On Writing* by Stephen King. "The only way to get better at writing is to read a lot and write a lot."

Eli Ingle is a professional writer and the author of the *Appointments on Plum Street* novel series. The first book, *Rigel*, was published in autumn 2015 and the second book, *Frivlok*, is due to be published in autumn 2017. The [first 3 chapters of Rigel](#) are freely available on his website, and home educators are welcome to [contact him for a complimentary PDF copy](#) of the novel. Fan feedback and Amazon reviews are most welcome, from all readers.

Teresa Bondora; Homeschool Mom & Teacher-Author

 sloah.com/2017/11/07/teresa-bondora-homeschool-mom-teacher

admin

November 7, 2017

Today, I'm delighted to share a guest post by Teresa Bondora. She's a long-term [home educator](#) and mom of two. Her daughter graduated home education 4 years ago but her son is still studying at homeschool. It's been a long journey from high school teacher to veteran homeschooler but she's been a proud mom every step of the way. This is her story, in her own words.

Teresa Bondora; Science Teacher

I spent 8 years in college, qualifying as a high school Science teacher. Shortly after graduating, I had my daughter. Of course, I sent her to a good daycare and, later on, to good schools.

My daughter was tested as gifted and had 5 school years of amazing self-esteem. However, she started to come home crying and saying she was stupid. Her brother was born, with autism, when she was in 5th grade. Pulled in many directions, I quit teaching and tried to figure out what to do.

I will never forget the morning I sent my daughter to school while she was crying, "Please don't make me go." Something in me just broke.

Teresa Bondora; New Homeschooler

Going online, I signed into a homeschool forum. As soon as I posted a message, someone wrote back and told me to get her out of school NOW and that she would help me once I got her home. That person saved and changed our lives.

I took my daughter out of school, followed our laws and tried to homeschool her. Another wonderful person, named Ren, helped me realise I needed to deschool. I learned about relaxed education and unschooling.

My degree major was Education; I was a teacher. Yet, I was only just now learning about mental and educational autonomy. To say I lost sleep and cried so many nights is an understatement. It doesn't do it justice to say it was a leap of faith. When all my daughter did was watch manga on her computer, I started to doubt. But, it led to her wanting to learn Japanese. Then she became obsessed with a Fortune 500 company. And, when I say obsessed, I mean she spent 3 years on YouTube and Google talking about it constantly until I was exhausted.

Teresa Bondora; Fortune 500 Daughter

She got a job flipping pizzas. I thought to myself that I'd failed her terribly. "She works at a pizza joint and spends all her free time on the computer learning about this stupid Fortune 500 company." My daughter was going nowhere fast and I was wrong to have listened to those who counselled me to take this path.

One day, she told me she was going to work for that Fortune 500 company. I doubted her. One year later, she got on a bus to visit a friend in the city where that company is headquartered. Something was different about her, that day. She was crying. She hugged me longer than usual. As she stared at me through the window, I felt a deep dread as if she knew something that I didn't know. She did.

My daughter went to that city with no intention of coming home. She told me later that she didn't want to hurt me. But to her credit, within a fortnight she had a job at that Fortune 500 company! She found roommates and settled into her new life. I cried at my loss but at the same time rejoiced at her success!

Teresa Bondora; Trust & Gratitude

That was 4 years ago. Today, she continues to get raises, promotions and every position that she applies for. They praise her constantly. She's happy with her job every single day and feels so fortunate to be living her dream.

Would she have ended up where she is if I had forced my intentions on her? Forced her to practice spelling, study History, have fixed times and schedules? I cried myself to sleep many nights and posted to countless forums. But I trusted her and followed her lead; I gave her autonomy and she ended up living her dream. After all, isn't that what we do for our children? We trust them.

No one tells us when we first find out we're pregnant, that if we really love our babies then we will get hurt. We will be afraid. Yet, we'll reach back every day to find the strength to face our fears. And, if we find that strength, if we give that trust, we end up being great parents – the parents that they need. And, when they're adults, being their best supporters, watching them live their dreams. Feeling gratitude for the fortitude and advice of all the people that helped us on our way.

Teresa Bondora; Living the Dream

Today, we celebrate together on the phone with each new happy thing she has to share. I hang up the phone trying not to cry because of the relief and happiness. I miss her and, at the same time, know she's living her dream and is happy. What more could a mother who asked for help and risked all those years hope for?

She and I are both fortunate products of other wonderful women who spoke up and helped us. My son has never been to school. He's 16 years old and thriving. He wants to go into Chemistry because he's been allowed to explore. Today, my life and work is nothing like what it was 24 years ago. And I couldn't be happier, for my children, for me, for us – for our educational journey. I hope I never stop learning and growing. I relish the idea that it was my children who asked me to do it. Today, they still do!



Photo credit: Teresa Bondora.

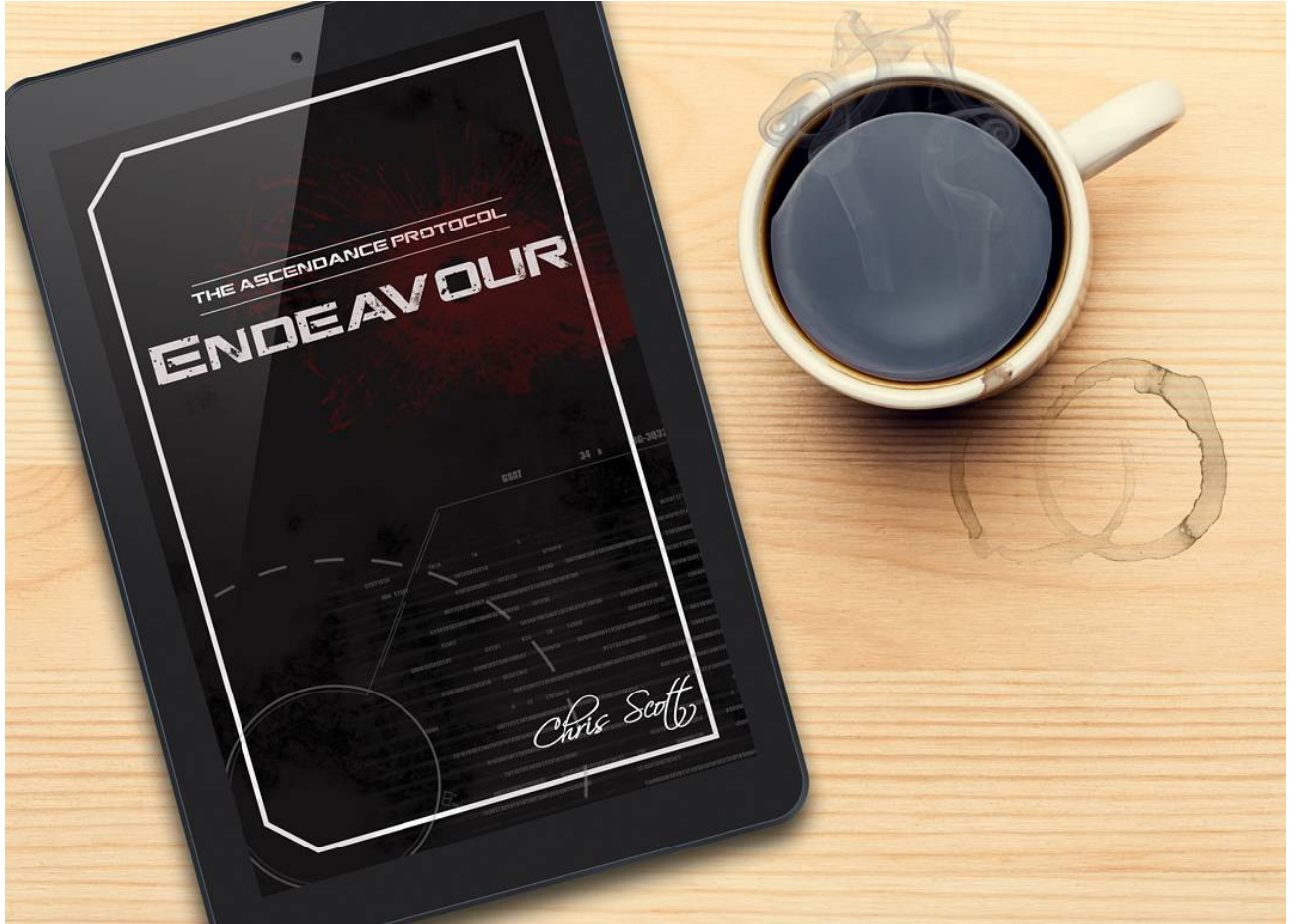
Teresa Bondora writes Science materials for homeschoolers and can be found at [TpT/Teresa-Bondora](https://www.tpt.com/teresa-bondora), on [Facebook](#), on [Instagram](#) sharing Chemistry jokes and in all major bookstores.

Interview with Chris Scott; Author, Parent & Homeschooler

 sloah.com/2018/04/20/interview-with-chris-scott-author-homeschooler

admin

April 20, 2018



The popularity of [homeschooling](#) as an education choice is by no means recent. In fact, the next generation is increasingly embracing it too! People who grew up being homeschooled want to offer that same flexibility and custom education to their own kids. In this interview with Chris Scott, you'll discover why he's chosen a bespoke education for his child.

Today, I'm very pleased to introduce you to this successful homeschooled graduate. He's not just an established indie author, with a published portfolio; he's also home educating his son.

Interview with Chris Scott; Career Path

Q: When did you become a homeschooled student?

A: At secondary school, the workload bored me. Clearly, something needed to change.

One summer break, my mother felt I had learned more in those brief weeks than during the previous year at school. At home, I was much happier and more engaged.

My mum felt she would lose me if I kept going back to a place where I wasn't happy. Bullying did not help the situation; I never felt I had the support of the teachers. My mum deregistered me, to begin home education. It was a great decision; I wasn't going to disagree with her!



Chris Scott using a microscope. Photo credit: Chris Scott.

Q: How did home education positively influence your career choice?

A: It gave me the flexibility to choose my own studies. While homeschooling, I spent a lot of time playing games, watching films, and reading books. In turn, that led to a strong interest in storylines, character and story development.

Interview with Chris Scott; Life as a Parent

Q: Why did you decide to homeschool your own child?

A: After my school experience, I wanted to give my child a better range of options than the school system could provide.

Of course, I'm not saying all schools are bad; it's just not the best choice for everyone. I feel this is the right choice for us and our son.



Chris Scott's son using a microscope, on a home education field trip. Photo credit: Chris Scott.

Interview with Chris Scott; Life as an Author

Q: What does your writing space look like; where do you like to work?

A: What workspace? I work wherever there *is* space!

Q: How do you deal with the infamous writer's block?

A: Sometimes, I find that throwing a ball helps me overcome writer's block. I also love to soundboard; bouncing ideas around with other people.

Q: Who is your favourite author?

A: JRR Tolkien; author of *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit*, and *The Silmarillion*.

Chris Scott is a professional indie author and partnered father of one. His latest book, *The Ascendance Protocol: Endeavour*, is an exciting science-fiction adventure novel.

[Endeavour](#)* was published on November 29, 2017; it's currently available to purchase on Amazon in paperback and Kindle eBook format. Fan feedback and Amazon reviews are always welcome; find him on the usual social media channels, including [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

All personal photos and public [Instagram](#) photos used in this article are credited to Chris Scott.