

WHAT IT IS

BEAR Facts of Engineering (BFOE) is a story-first STEM adventure series for readers aged 8 to 12, in which a team of bear engineers solves real-world crises using real engineering. It was created by Jimmy Johnston MBE, a retired Glasgow technology teacher, and is produced from Mauritius by Martin Sansone. The franchise spans illustrated chapter books, two YouTube channels, audio, classroom resources, and a membership through which parents and teachers help steer what gets made.

The doctrine, in order: adventure first, engineering second, educational value third. If a choice would make a book more educational at the cost of making it a worse story, the story wins.

PUBLISHED

Book One: The Burning Mountain. Published in separate British English and American English editions, so that children read the series in the English they are learning at school.

	UK EDITION	US EDITION
Publisher	BFOE Mauritius	BFOE Mauritius
Publication date	5 August 2026	7 August 2026
Print length	172 pages	172 pages
ISBN-13	978-9999398503	978-9999398534
Dimensions	13.97 x 1.09 x 21.59 cm	5.5 x 0.43 x 8.5 in
Reading age	8 to 12 years	8 to 12 years
Formats	Paperback and Kindle	Paperback and Kindle

PIPELINE AND AMBITION

Book Two: The Satellite Whispers is complete in manuscript and in production. **Book Three** is in development. Stories run across two tracks, one grounded on Earth and one in near orbit.

The plan is a hundred books. That will take years, and it is understood. What will not move is the standard: every one of them has to be an adventure worth reading before it is anything else.

BEYOND THE PAGE

YouTube

@BFOEStories, for young readers.

@BFOEWorkshop, for parents, teachers and makers. Animation in development.

The Workshop Programme

A capped group of parents and teachers, by application and free, who read manuscripts before publication and steer concepts, drafts and resources.

The BFOE Den

Membership for parents (£29 a year or £3.99 monthly) and teachers (£59 a year). Organisation licences for schools and trusts on enquiry.

Classroom

Lesson packs aligned to seven curricula: UK, US, Australia, Singapore, India, IB and Canada. Built on the TEDDIES framework. Author visits to schools.

THE PEOPLE

Jimmy Johnston MBE, co-author and creative originator. A scientific instrument maker in Glasgow from 1966, he began teaching in 1977 and became Head of Technology Education in 1990. His Young Engineers teams competed internationally. Appointed MBE for Services to Education and Young People. Creator of the TEDDIES framework, and the person who coined the name BEAR Facts of Engineering.

Martin Sansone, co-creator and producer. Former accountant turned software developer, CTO and technology architect, with a background spanning advertising, new media, digital identity and large-scale payment systems. Produces the series from Mauritius. Full biographies at bfoe.kids/vision

STORY ANGLES WE CAN SPEAK TO

Teaching STEM to the AI generation. What do you teach an eight year old when nobody can describe the job market they will enter?

Thirty years in a Glasgow classroom. What made students believe they could compete internationally, and what happened when the teacher retired.

A hundred books from a two-person team. Independent publishing from Mauritius, and what modern production tools have made possible for small creative teams.

Built with its readers. A steering group of parents and teachers who read manuscripts before publication. Parents are already asking for character stickers and merchandise.

Disaster stories for children, done responsibly. Volcanoes, tsunamis and orbital debris, written so that children finish frightening chapters wanting to build something rather than hide.



INTERVIEWS AND ASSETS

Both authors are available for interview. Jimmy Johnston is in Glasgow (GMT, BST in summer); Martin Sansone is in Mauritius (GMT+4). Remote video, telephone or written questions all work.

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