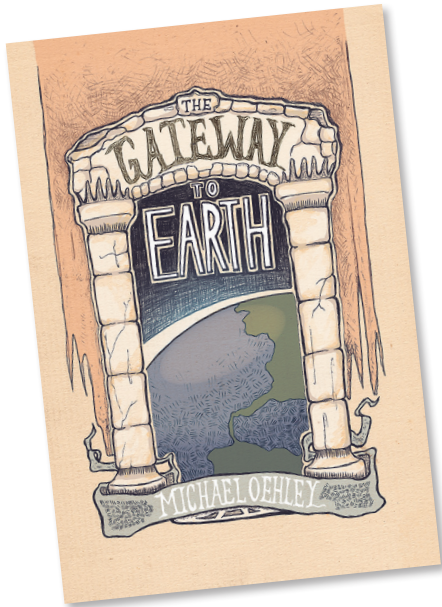


# The Gateway to Earth



## An excerpt from the book

*Wind billowed in my robes and the spire-top swayed underfoot. I had my left arm and leg wrapped around the metal lightning conductor that pointed to the heavens, while my right arm and leg dangled free in the evening breeze. Dangerous as this position was atop the city's highest spire, it was my favourite. Here I felt wondrously alive and free. This was the closest thing to flying in a world where human flight remained an impossible dream.*

*It was shortly after sunset in Atalan, the second greatest city and largest trading port in the Súperia Empire. The year was A.S. 1107, more than six hundred years after the last life I could remember on Óshéanús. The desert horizon to the west was like a river of fire, the domes and spires of Atalan black silhouettes against the blaze. The purple of approaching night clung to the east, where the city's fortified walls blocked the ocean's surge. The air was cool and clear. Atalan's aromatic, spicy scents wafted under my nose and I sighed with pleasure.*

*It was good to be back on Óshéanús, to be home again.*

## About the Author



### *An African Boy*

Michael Richard Oehley was born in South Africa and enjoyed a happy childhood there until he was 10, when his family moved to Hamilton, New Zealand. He studied medicine at the University of Auckland, and from 2009-13 worked as an emergency doctor in rural Australian hospitals. He has travelled to 53 countries on 6 continents. He married Claire in 2013 and they have settled permanently in the Waikato, where Michael works as a G.P.

Michael was first published at the age of 27, with *The 4 Powers of Daren Sâner*. He has written three of the six books in the series so far, and has plenty of other books planned. The problem is trying to find time to write them, because he is a very busy doctor!

### Bibliography

2010	<i>The 4 Powers of Daren Sâner</i>	Scholastic NZ Ltd.
2012	<i>The Vitality Code</i>	Scholastic NZ Ltd.
2013	<i>The Gateway to Earth</i>	Lulu Publishers, (also available as e-book)

## Synopsis: *The Gateway to Earth*

When two powerful weapons are stolen from the Starship Súperia, Daren Sâner and friends are sent on a dangerous mission through a black hole to recover them. So begins two whirlwind journeys through time and space to an alien planet called 'Earth' and to medieval Óshéanús, where alchemists have built a portal between worlds. Nothing is what it seems in the past or the present as Daren races against time to stop Súperia's weapons from falling into the wrong hands...

The Gateway to Earth is Book Three in the Daren Sâner Series.

Published by Lulu Publishers  
<http://www.lulu.com>

## Classroom Activities

### LANGUAGE

1. Write a short paragraph about the title – The Gateway to Earth. What do you think the story is going to be about?
2. Act out the scene in the book from Chapter 3 – The Event Horizon. Pretend you are all in space-pods about to fly into the black hole. Tell your friends what you are feeling. What are your last words to them before you disappear into the black hole?

### READING

1. Read the Prologue. Who do you think is responsible for the robots stealing the two precious objects? What do you think is going to happen next?
2. Read the first chapter. Write down two things you learned about each of the following characters:  
Daren Sâner  
Boron Delaxid  
Sela Dorávier  
Alana Melinum
3. After reading chapters 4-6, write your own short story about the city of Atalan. Imagine you live there in the medieval times. What adventures might you have?

### HEALTH

1. In chapter four, Master Tor tells Dar not to go outside or else he might catch the 'cold throat' or a 'pox'. What do you think those diseases are?
2. Write down five things that might be different about people's health in medieval Atalan and on the futuristic starship.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

1. On the starship, Daren and his friends are in the military. Why do you think a spaceship might need an army?
2. In medieval Atalan, Dar is an apprentice to an alchemist. What was an alchemist? What did they do? Do you think alchemists could turn lead into gold?

### VISUAL ARTS

1. Design your own cover for The Gateway to Earth.
2. Read Chapter 4 and draw your own picture of the medieval city of Atalan, including the Detonation Tower and the Alchemical Tower.