

Primary Schools Info Pack (Y3-Y6)

Learn about book publishing, writing and news reporting with children's author and journalist

Kathy Urban



Children's author and former news journalist Kathy Urban offers presentations & creative writing workshops for primary school classes.

Her visits are fun and interactive and will help stimulate students' imagination and boost their confidence to develop their language & creative writing skills.

Kathy likes working closely with educators to tailor any visits activities to their needs, age groups and units of enquiry.



About Kathy

Kathy Urban is a children's book writer and broadcast journalist who has reported on news, entertainment and environmental stories for more than a decade.

Her books are inspired by her experiences as a parent as well as childhood recollections of muddy forest adventures, building homes for tiny insects and a shelf filled with Astrid Lindgren books.

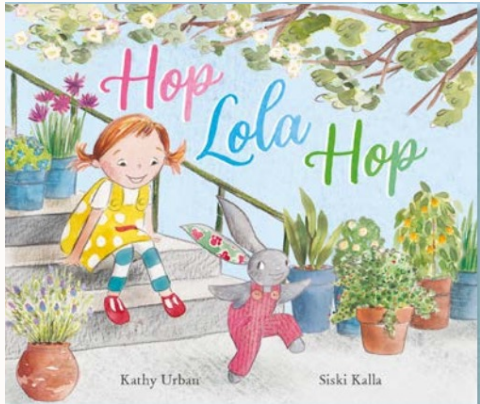
An advocate of reading, Kathy is passionate about promoting a life-long love of literature in the very young.

In a professional and a voluntary capacity, Kathy works hard to spread the joy that books can bring to little people's lives.

Kathy has lived in the UK, the US, Denmark and Germany, and these days, calls Dubai her home.



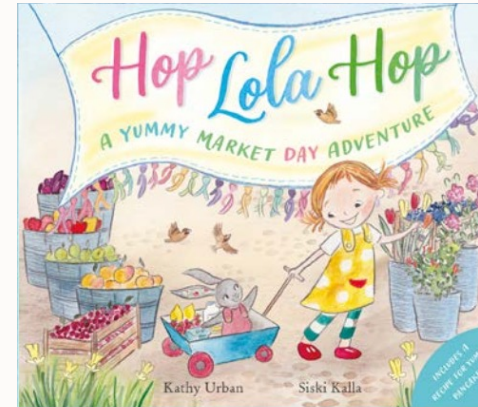
Books written by Kathy Urban



Hop Lola Hop

Lola is a little toy bunny who likes to go on fun adventures. But one day, she Hop! Hop! Hops! ... just a little too far.

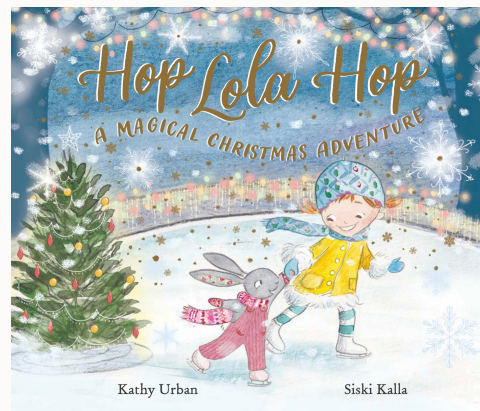
Ella is a young girl who is heartbroken when her beloved bunny goes missing. How are they going to find each other again?



Hop Lola Hop - A Yummy Market Day Adventure

Hop away with Lola and Ella in another magical adventure, full of heart, hope and yummy food as the friends explore the local farmers market.

All is well until - once again - Lola Hop! Hop! Hops ... just a little too far. All because she wants to help Ella find a special ingredient for their picnic.



Hop Lola Hop – A Magical Christmas Adventure

It's very nearly Christmas and it promises to be a magical one for Lola and Ella ... that is until our little bunny realises that someone else is about to enter their lives and change everything.

Will Ella still have time for her bunny? And what's Santa got to do with it?

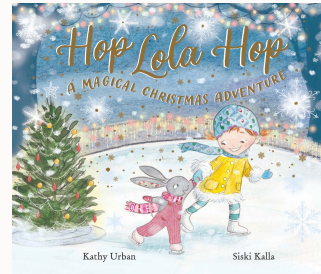
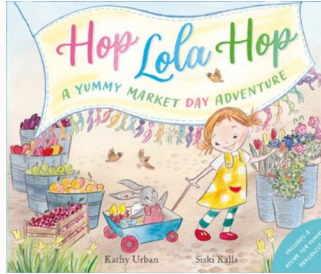
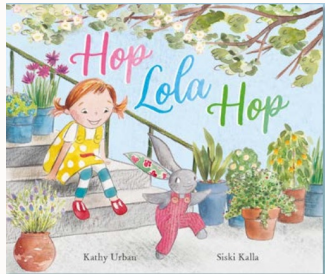


Kind Little Hands (coming October 2024)

A chance encounter sparks a heart-warming rescue mission, as a young boy, Noah, tries to revive a tired bee which he finds on the streets of a busy city. A touching, uplifting story, offering young readers the opportunity to explore how to be active citizens and caring individuals in an ever-changing world.

About the

Hop Lola Hop series



Education Applicability

- *Hop Lola Hop* is a delightful series about a much-loved toy bunny, who likes to go on fun adventures. Sometimes the bunny gets lost. Most children have a comforting toy so this story has universal appeal.
- **Key themes of imagination, friendship and comfort run throughout the series and the stories highlight the emotions brought about when losing something special.**
- Each story takes the reader on a new adventure, a situation and environment children will be familiar with from going out on walks or to the market.
- **Sound words throughout the book help build little readers' vocabulary, making these stories the ideal read-aloud companion for toddlers and preschoolers to read together with their caretaker.**
- There are secret bunnies to spot and find throughout the book, encouraging emerging readers to revisit the story independently.





Kind Little Hands

(releasing October 2024)

- **Inspirational story** about a young boy who saves an exhausted bee , something that can happen in many cities around the world.
- A good conversation starter for **sustainability** and other ways to become **active global citizens** in today's fast changing world.
- Includes important **facts about bees** and how to help them, with a list of child- friendly actions contributed by **Buglife – The Invertebrate Conversation Trust**
- A proportion of the sales of this book will go towards Buglife's conservation work to restore and create new wildflower habitats in the UK.

If you're interested to receive updates and information about this book's release, special events or to book, please email Kathy directly: Kathy@hoplolahop.com



• Author Visits Overview

Kathy likes working closely with schools and is happy to adjust her sessions to accommodate your school's needs. Please specify any particular session you are interested in.

➤ The Power of Facts

1-hour presentation on Journalism and News Reporting | Q&A | Suitable for Y5&6

➤ From Idea to Getting your Book 'into the Wild'

1-hour presentation on book creation & publishing process | Q&A | Suitable for Y3-Y6

➤ In-Class Workshops

1-hr block per class in combination with one assembly presentation | options for Y3-Y6

School Checklist:

- ✓ If required, seek ADEK or KHDA approval
- ✓ Prepare schedule of presentations
- ✓ Projector/screen, microphone for assemblies and in class visits
- ✓ Schools are kindly asked to provide crafts materials, drawing pads/whiteboards for in class visits
- ✓ Seek approval for honorarium payment prior to visit
- ✓ For safety reasons, we ask for at least one member of teaching staff to remain present throughout each session

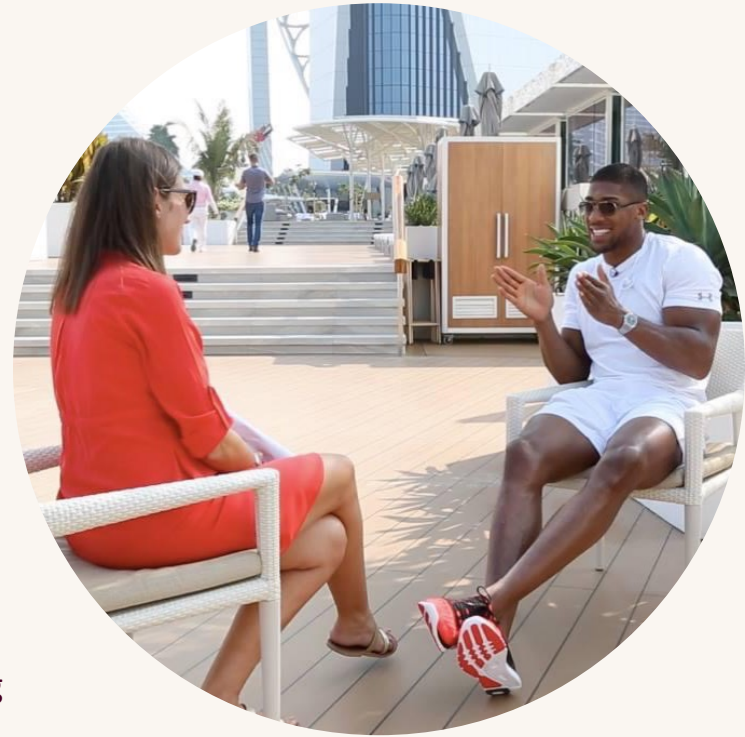
The Power of Facts

Presentation on Journalism & News Reporting | 1 Hr | suitable for Pre Y5 & Y6

- We explore how journalists gather information, verify facts, and present news stories accurately
- We discuss how we consume news these days through both traditional and emerging platforms
- We learn about the five W's and what goes into a news report
- We discuss the importance of trusted sources and how to identify them
- We learn to differentiate between what is 'real' and what is 'fake' news.
- We address how plagiarism, including the use of AI can affect the credibility of your journalistic work
- Q&A session following the presentation

Option: in class workshops (1 hr. min per group)

- During in class workshops, Kathy will guide students to write their own news reports and present them in front of a camera.



ON AIR

From Idea to Inception: Getting your Story 'Into the Wild'

Presentation on Book Creation & the Publishing Process | 1hr | suitable for Pre Y3 - Y6

- **Presentation tied in with Q&A** covering various aspects of the book creation process, from idea to inception, storyboarding, editing and getting your printed book on the bookshelves.
- **Reference** – Choice of either of Kathy's books (during her presentation, Kathy will be using one of her books for reference | to be agreed with group lead)
- **Optional:** Introduction to in-class creative writing challenge/group activity (to be agreed with your group lead. Please see options on following slide)
- **Book signing** upon request



In-Class Workshops

1 block per class | suitable for Pre Y3 - Y6

- Based on requirements, Kathy offers these workshops in double blocks or together with a general assembly. Please note, activities vary in length and students are not expected to complete the activity during the workshop.

The following workshop options can be tied in with either of Kathy's books

- **We create our own story:** Using story mountain, the class will map out an original story, before moving on to write and illustrate a picture book either in small groups or individually. Peer review will be encouraged.
- **Character Formation Exercise:** Students are encouraged to develop a main character for their adventure story. I will extend my presentation, explaining in more detail how to create an interesting fictional character. Peer review encouraged.
- **Let's re-write the Ending:** This task can be tied in with a presentation for older year groups, where I will share part of the story and leave it up to students to invent a 'new ending'.

The following workshop is based on Kathy's upcoming book 'Kind Little Hands'

- **'Let Cities be Kind to Nature!'** During this workshop, Kathy will guide students through the key building blocks of argumentative writing and help them write their argument based on facts.

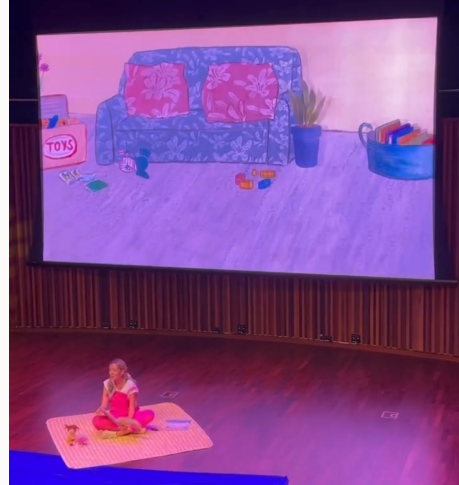


IMPROVING
IMAGINATION AND
CREATIVITY



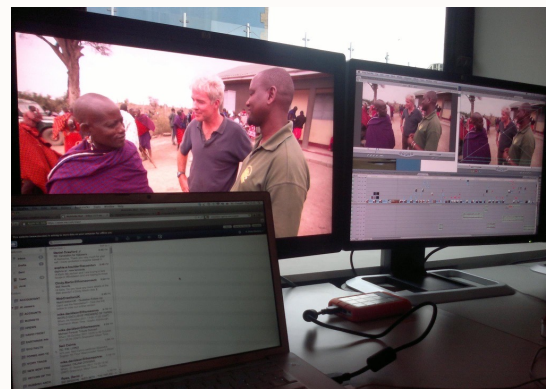
DEVELOPING
LITERACY SKILLS
AND
CONCENTRATION

Working with...

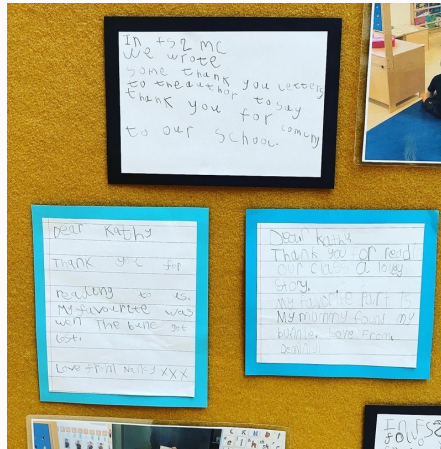
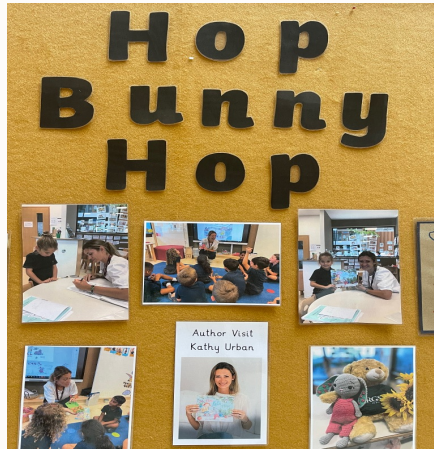


RGS Guildford Dubai Children's Letter Writing Competition

Working with...



Testimonials



"What a wonderful day we had welcoming back author Kathy Urban to RAK Academy - Khuzam this week.

Kathy's brilliant sessions are always well received by our students from Pre-k to Grade 5, who have enjoyed insightful writing workshops, engaging classroom craft activities, and interactive story times.

Kathy's energy, enthusiasm, and passion for literacy is truly inspiring!

Thank you for sharing your knowledge with us and encouraging our students to imagine themselves as future writers. We can't wait to see what Lola gets up to next!"

Allison Lee
Library Assistant
RAK Academy - Khuzam (Primary)



"Thank you so, so much for all of your time and effort in visiting all of the Year 1 classes this week. The children all thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and are delighted to now recognise themselves as authors, having been inspired to make their own books! Your visit really brought our final line of inquiry to life for the children and we are truly grateful to you."

Jodie Sarah Harris - Y1 coordinator
Dubai International Academy

"Our Year 1 classes have been lucky enough to work with Kathy this week. The children enjoyed listening to the wonderful 'Hop Lola Hop' before learning about the writing process. Through the use of toys and images, Kathy brought the story to life and inspired the children to become authors themselves. We have already booked Kathy in for a visit in the next academic year so that we can continue to inspire many more children with her incredible talent. From all of us here at DBSJP, thank you so much and we look forward to welcoming you back in again soon!"

Megan Pankhurst - Das & Head of Writing - Primary
Dubai British School Jumeirah Park

My Child, A., of grade 3, got the opportunity to meet the author, Kathy Urban at an event organised by British International School. He's 8 years old and enjoys reading very much. This opportunity helped him find guidance as how he could benefit from this hobby of his. He was very fortunate to be able to ask questions to the author, to which she was very kind to take out the time, even after the event to answer the curious questions XXX had. I wanted to extend my gratitude for the opportunity the school provided and to the author as well, to leave an engraving impact on the my child and I'm sure on many others that attended the event. Thank you. Kind regards

Mother of A., Grade 3

"We have been very fortunate to have Kathy working with our children across the entire primary age range this week. Kathy shared book extracts alongside supporting the children with how to create their own stories in an engaging, creative way.

She was the perfect addition to English week and created a real buzz around school.

Thanks so much Kathy!"

(October 2022)

Megan Pankhurst
Das & Head of Writing - Primary



Almost there ...

Announcing the visit – Key to a successful visit begins with creating buzz and excitement among students, parents and teachers ahead of the day. Kathy will provide a printable poster to display and share in the newsletter. She will further share a letter to introduce herself and her work to the parent community.

Book sales and pre-orders

Owning a book that has been personalized by an author enhances the joy of reading for children, forging a special bond between the reader and the story. This connection not only fosters pride but also extends the impact of an author's visit far beyond the event itself.

Book orders can be arranged directly with the author or – if you are running a book fair - in collaboration with a bookshop.

Please note, for every 10 books sold, the author will donate 1 book to a classroom or the school library.

Fees

Are applicable to all visits and have been designed to accommodate different requirements. Please read carefully:

Year Group Presentation only

Appearance Fee of AED1000

Presentation & Workshops

Appearance Fee of AED 1500

If the author visit takes place in combination with younger year groups, the appearance fee will remain at AED1,000 in addition to a minimum sale of 20 books.

Fees must be paid in full on the day. An invoice or payment link will be provided prior to the event. Please state if you prefer to make payments via bank transfer, card or cash on the day. A receipt can be emailed after the session.

Social Media

Kindly tag the author on your social media posts

- Instagram: @kathyurbantales
- Twitter: @kathyurbantales

For more information, you can contact Kathy via email: kathy@hoplolahop.com