

Camilla Chester Children's Author: School Visits



Summary

Camilla's author visits are a full afternoon. It includes an assembly which can include the whole of the junior school (KS2 appropriate), then two Y5 and/or Y6 creative writing workshops and a book signing session which runs at school pick up to include parents. The total cost is £100 + expenses. To book or enquire further please email: camillachester100@gmail.com.

Why organise an author visit?

It might seem like an unnecessary luxury to book an author visit but the benefits to the school and the children are numerous. A recent study in the US by the Department of Child and Adolescent Development showed three primary benefits of an author visit:

1. Motivates children to read
2. Inspires creativity and expression
3. Motivates children to write

If an author visit is planned it can fit neatly into a curriculum topic and lead to engaged children who are more willing to learn. It is something fun and inspiring which children are excited and enthusiastic about. In addition, if you book Camilla, you are also supporting a local children's writer to continue within a competitive market.

Why is it priced at £100?

The lowest recommended rate, according to the Society of Authors for an author to charge for a school visit is £350 for a full day. Most authors charge in the region of £350-£1500 for a day visit depending on how well known they are. Selling books makes very little money for authors and school visits can make up a large part of their income. Camilla's rate is low because she is restricted to local, afternoon only visits. Camilla is also a relatively new author who is yet to fully establish her name. In addition, Camilla does not want to financially prevent a school booking an author visit knowing how restricted budgets can be.

Details of the visit

Camilla is flexible to the school's needs and has teaching experience, but the purpose of her visit is to inspire children in their reading and writing, not to deliver the curriculum. A typical visit begins with a full junior school assembly in the hall, which requires use of a powerpoint presentation (no audio), an area to pin up The Writing Game (usually a rolling whiteboard), a table and a chair. The assembly is a full hour, but it is very interactive and fun, with a chance for the children to ask questions. It addresses the issues all children want to know - where ideas come from and how a book comes together as well as a little bit about Camilla herself. After the assembly there are two 45 minute workshops that are delivered to either small groups or an entire class. For this a flip chart, rough paper and pencils are needed. Usually these are pitched for Y5 and Y6 but younger year groups can participate if the school prefers. Please note that legally and for insurance purposes Camilla is not to be left alone with children at any time. The workshops look at story building techniques and are designed to get children thinking creatively. After the workshops Camilla signs and sells her books which are usually pre-ordered.



How does the visit work?

The school books a date that is convenient and lets Camilla know of any special requirements or whether a standard visit is suitable. Camilla emails a pre-order letter which the school prints and gives out to all the children to take home. The school collects any orders in and advertises Camilla's visit. The school usually orders in Camilla's books (available from the usual suppliers) and may begin reading excerpts to the Y6 and Y5s, anything that builds the excitement. The visit goes ahead and feedback and payment is received. Late order letters are given out and Camilla returns to the school soon after her visit to deliver any additional books.

Camilla's Books

Camilla writes for the age group 8-12, has two published books, and a third due out in 2018. Her debut, *Jarred Dreams*, is suitable for ages 9+, was shortlisted in the 2015 National Literacy Trust New Author Prize and can be used as the text for Y6 guided reading. It tells the story of a ghoulish character who steals children's dreams, turning the world soulless and the Sade, the twelve-year-old girl who dares to defy him. Camilla's second book *EATS* is suitable for ages 8+ and is about two boys, Larks and Tucker who win a competition to cook in a celebrity chef's house, but when they get there things are not all that they seem.



Teacher Testimonials

"Having visitors to the school can sometimes mean extra work for the staff, but Camilla's visit was very easy to organise and I was impressed by her professionalism. I would definitely recommend her to other schools." Trevor Thornton, Assistant Head of School, Gleadless Primary School.

"A superb and inspiring amount of information on the creative writing process plus great pupil interaction. The children were able to see how their own literacy work in school has some relevance to real life writing. They were also inspired to read!" Mr Tavender, Y6 Teacher, Cunningham Hill Junior School.

"The children were engaged. They enjoyed the game and liked listening to the story extract. They benefitted from understanding how long it takes to write a book and the importance of proof-reading and editing. It was a great opportunity for them to become inspired about writing." Mrs Harvey, Deputy Head Teacher, Beech Hyde Primary School.

"The children were excited about meeting a real life author. The whole drafting process is now very relevant to what the children do in writing lessons. The children who did the workshop really enjoyed the experience and were very proud of their writing. We would definitely recommend Camilla!" Lorna Stringer, Y5 Teacher, Nethergreen Junior School.

"The children were really engaged by your talk and you gave useful tips for them as writers. Thank you for visiting, we really enjoyed it and the children are already hooked into *Jarred Dreams*!" Jo Daley, English Header KS2, Shooters Grove Primary School.

"It was fantastic for the children to meet an author. To hear from a writer about the process of writing was really valuable and the children loved the game. The small group workshop worked well. The excerpt captured the imagination of the children and they were able to

develop their own ideas based around this." Lorna Feverelle, Class Teacher and Phase Leader, Arbourthorne Community Primary School.

Children Testimonials



"I really enjoyed every single minute of your talk (ending up writing two pages about everything you said), but the thing I enjoyed the most was when you talked about the characters, you really inspired me". Ella.

"I really enjoyed hearing about how you made your character. It was really funny." Lily.

"I really loved you coming to our school to read your books. After guessing what your characters look like I have been inspired to try really hard at my writing. Thank you!" Lauren.

"I really enjoyed listening to Camilla's

books - they were really exciting." Charlotte.

"I really enjoyed Camilla's 'Dream Thief' and the character plan of 'Leonardo De'Largio' because it made me want to write a story." Daniel.

"I really enjoyed listening to an extract of your book EATS because it sounded really funny." Freddie.

"I really enjoyed listening to how you became a writer and seeing how you plan. It inspired me to write and made me realise you can do it if you try. I hope you continue to amaze other people. Good luck!" Ben

Additional Information

Camilla has visited the following schools: Sir John Lawes (Y7), Crabtree Juniors, STAGs (Y7), Beech Hyde Primary, St Dominics, Margaret Wix, Aboyne Lodge, Gleadless Primary, Abbots Hill, Shooters Grove Primary, Nethergreen Juniors, Greystones Juniors, High Beeches, St Helens, The Lea Primary, Cunningham Hill, Arbourthorne, William Austin Juniors, Sauncey Wood Primary, Kimpton Primary. She has talked at Brownie groups, libraries, been a judge and delivered a talk at St Albans Literary Festival and been selected as the Chatterbooks book of choice at Harpenden Library. She is an active member and volunteer with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and is one of the authors for the Serial Mash series.

If you would like to find out more please email: camillachester100@gmail.com or visit: www.camillachester.com

Thank you!