

Camilla Chester Children's Author: School Visits



Summary

Camilla Chester is a KS2 writer available for Primary School author visits. Her visits include a junior school assembly, writing workshop(s) and a book signing session. They are charged at £350 (full day) and £200 (half day) + 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. Studies 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

These benefits are recognised by Ofsted. 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.

How is pricing calculated?

The lowest recommended rate, according to the Society of Authors for a school visit is £350 for a full day, £200 for a half day. Most authors charge in the region of £450-£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 does not want to financially prevent a school booking an author visit knowing how restricted budgets can be. Please note that Camilla does charge for travel expenses at 45p p/mile.

What about virtual?

Camilla is based in Harpenden in Hertfordshire and has a part-time job. She can visit local schools easily but if travelling further afield schools need to book well in advance and if possible joined with other activities to minimise cost and impact. If you're unable to organise a physical visit, Camilla can visit your school virtually. More information on this can be found here: <https://www.camillachester.com/author-visits.html>

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), 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 and join in. Centred around her new book *Call Me Lion* 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 45 minute workshops delivered to either small groups or an entire class. For this the school will need to provide the children with a print out of the resource pack for *Call Me Lion*: <https://fireflypress.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Call-Me-Lion-Resource-pack.pdf>. Please note that legally and for insurance purposes Camilla is not to be left alone with children at any time. After the



workshops Camilla signs and sells her books and is open to meeting parents/carers. The format is the same whether a half or full day visit.

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 *Call Me Lion* (available from the usual suppliers) and may begin reading excerpts, or asking children to investigate into Camilla, anything that builds the excitement. The visit goes ahead and feedback/payment is received.



Camilla's Books

Camilla writes for KS2, has four published books. Her latest book, *Call Me Lion* is aimed at Y5 and follows the friendship between Leo, who has Selective Mutism and Richa, the girl who comes to live next door. Camilla's debut, *Jarred Dreams*, is suitable for ages 10+ and was shortlisted in the 2015 National Literacy Trust New Author Prize. It has been used as the text for Y6 guided reading. It tells the story of a ghoul who steals children's dreams, taking the colour and life from the world. Her second book, *EATS* is suitable for ages 8+ and is about two boys, Larks and Tucker who win a celebrity chef competition, but the prize isn't all that it seems. It was shortlisted in the Winchester Funny Fiction Award 2018. *Thirteenth Wish* is suitable for ages 8+ and is an adventure, mystery story with three central characters. It is a puzzle that readers solve along the way.

Additional Information

Camilla has visited over thirty schools; delivered workshops at Brownie and Cub groups; given talks at libraries; been a competition judge; taken part in numerous festivals; opened school libraries; and appeared in local press and radio. She is an active member and volunteer with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), a member of National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE) and the Society of Authors (SoA), worked with The Discover Children's Stories Centre on their Catching Words Project in East London and is one of the authors for the Serial Mash series. Camilla is on the update service for DBS check and has full public liability insurance. She is represented by Veronique Baxter at David Higham Associates (DHA) and is a member of the Society of Authors (SoA).

Teacher Testimonials

"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.

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 loved you coming to our school to read your books. 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.

"It made me want to write a story." Daniel.

"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

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

For social media use the handle @camillacauthor and/or visit:
<https://linktr.ee/camillacauthor> for all links.

Thank you!

