



### **Author Feedback:**

'Little Star Writing offers something very special indeed. Not only do they organise events seamlessly for the author but they also ensure that the children are fully immersed in the creativity of the sessions. Mel and her dynamic team encourage children to think freely, question widely and explore fully with the result that Little Star Writers are among the most enthused and impressive young writers I've come across. Where so often creativity is curtailed by exam pressures and curriculum objectives, Little Star Writing offers something different - something boldly imaginative and exciting for children. In short, I reckon Little Star Writing is paving the way for the next generation of authors. I'd better watch out...'

**Abi Elphinstone, children's author and ex-English teacher, has written one of the 'Top 10 Children's Books Not To Miss in 2015' according to The Bookseller.**

'It was obvious from the moment I arrived that Mel had a fantastic rapport with the children. The workshops give kids of all abilities the chance to express themselves creatively without worrying about 'getting it wrong', which is great for those lacking confidence - while high-achievers can really spread their wings. I was so impressed with the range and quality of the work the Little Star Writers proudly showed me. Fun, inspiring, and highly recommended!

**Susie Day, winner of the BBC Talent Children's Fiction Prize, writes for children and young adult.**

'The very idea of the creative writing classes that you run seems an excellent one to me. Allowing the children the freedom to play with ideas and words and meaning, freeing their imaginations is a vital and now sadly a more and more lost and neglected concept. I was very taken with your approach and equally by their responses to your approach and your ideas. What an excellent scheme, producing such excellent work. Any schools wondering how to enthuse primary pupils or any others in their creative writing should contact LSW!'

**Ian Beck, children's author and illustrator whose books have sold millions of copies worldwide. Ian is also known for illustrating album covers, including Elton John's 'Goodbye Yellow Brick Road'.**

'I felt totally inspired by all of the wonderful Little Star Writers I met. They're going to take the book world by storm one day! Little Star Writing is a dream to work with and an amazing organization to support. Get involved!'

**Robin Stevens, bestselling, award-winning children's author, including winner of the 'Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2015'.**

'LSW workshops clearly help student's confidence and their articulation as well as boosting their imaginations. They were a great crowd to talk to, and I look forward to seeing their work on the bookshelves some time in the future.'

**Steve Cole, bestselling children's author, including 'Young Bond'**





'I had a brilliant day with the Little Star Writers. LSW is a unique programme that gets kids thinking and writing.'

**Damian Dibben, creator of internationally acclaimed series, The History Keepers, which is published in over 40 countries, translated into 26 languages, and has been optioned for film by Working Title Films.**

'Little Star Writers is one of the most exciting, inspirational and beneficial part to a young writers growth. It is a dream project.'

**Laura Dockrill, author of 'Darcy Burdock', named one of the top ten literary talents by The Times and one of the top twenty hot faces to watch by ELLE magazine, shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal 2014, and shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2014.**

'A big thumbs up for Little Star Writing! I had a wonderful and extremely well-organized day: an event in assembly followed by a visit to a Little Star workshop, which was a joy. I loved LSW's emphasis on having fun with writing, and whilst the kids were provided with plenty of cues and inspiration, they were ultimately free to choose their own creative direction. They clearly loved it, and the quality of their work blew me away. It was wonderful to be with such a happy, creative group of writers, and I'd recommend LSW to all parents and teachers of future bestselling authors.'

**Conrad Mason, author of 'The Demon's Watch', which has been shortlisted for the Leeds Book Award 2013 and the Redbridge Children's Book Award 2013, and longlisted for the Lincolnshire Young People's Book Award 2013, and Waverton Good Read Children's Award 2012.**

'My visit with Little Star Writing was the best and most rewarding school event that I have yet been involved in. The children were amazingly engaged and enthusiastic, and the staff I met were welcoming and committed. It was a pleasure to meet the children in the Little Star Writing group who were lively and eager. Their creativity is clearly benefiting enormously from Mel's encouragement and advice.'

**Dave Shelton, winner of the Branford Boase 'Outstanding Children's Debut Novel' Award for 'The Boy and a Bear in a Boat'. Dave illustrates his work and also produces comic strip books.**

'Thank you again for hosting such an awesome afternoon. I now understand how you got so successful so quickly. You have such an inspiring enthusiasm as well as a meticulous attention to detail and commitment. Children and teachers everywhere are very lucky you burst onto the scene!'

**Dee Shulman, bestselling children's author and illustrator of over 50 books. Her books have been translated into many languages, including Japanese, Dutch and Finnish, have been highly recommended in the press and on radio, and have been shortlisted for numerous awards.**





### **Teacher Feedback:**

'You have created a little bit of magic in what you do. Thank you on behalf of teachers for the love and passion you are helping to further instil in our children!'

**Mrs Gillis, Literacy Coordinator, Kew Green Preparatory School, Surrey**

'Little Star Writers has really been a success at Trafalgar. It is wonderful to see the group of children who go, every Thursday after school, being so enthusiastic about their writing, and producing work of such high quality! They love working with Mel and they have grown as confident writers because of her club sessions. A real bonus for all our children has been the author visits that Mel has managed to arrange for us, too!'

**Richard Smith, Deputy Head Teacher, Trafalgar Junior School, Twickenham**

'Wow, thank you. The children LOVE your sessions. Little Star Writing workshops are fun, inspiring and within a very short space of time encourage the children to write some incredible, descriptive passages. Every child is engaged and loves the games and competitions that you run. The children produce fantastic writing without even realising they were working!'

**Alice Bray, Literacy Coordinator, Collis Primary School, Teddington**

'Thank you for the fantastic workshops that you ran last week. The children thoroughly enjoyed them and the feedback from staff and pupils was positive. The quality of the writing was also fantastic during these sessions demonstrating the pupil engagement.'

**Hannah Cunnah Literacy Coordinator, Saxon Primary School, Shepperton**

'You must be feeling so proud of yourself. What an achievement in two years or so!'

**Alison Fox, Literacy Coordinator, Nelson Primary School, Whitton**

'The teachers and kids loved the writing workshop. It got everyone talking about writing, which was fab! Mel's fresh and inspiring ideas motivated even the most resistant writers.'

**Leigh Fox, Literacy Coordinator, Highgate Private School, Nicosia, Cyprus**





### **Other Feedback:**

'I had the great pleasure of working with Mel at the Imagine Festival in 2014. She is an inspiring, committed and passionate educator who soon had the rapt attention of the children fortunate enough to be in her workshop. Guided by her expert teaching, the kids were soon brimming with ideas to develop sophisticated stories from their boundless imaginations. Creative writing can be hard to put across, but Mel has broken it down into digestible lessons for writers of all abilities. Everyone had a great time and I would recommend Little Star to any parent wishing to see their child inspired, nurtured and supported through the creative writing process. Mel is a joy to work with and a dedicated professional to boot - I cannot praise her endeavour highly enough.'

**Mary Evans, Writer and Creator of Story Stew**

'I was incredibly impressed by Little Star Writing's workshops. The children were focused and very enthusiastic about the whole process of writing. They worked well in a group as well as coming up with lots of creative individual ideas. Within the workshop situation, kids treated writing as pure pleasure. Mel knows how to get the best out of everyone and each child had a chance to shine. Mel was professional, creative and rigorous and she had a brilliant rapport with the kids.'

**Vanessa Woolf, Storyteller**

'It was a joy to have Mel from Little Star Writing run a workshop during Imagine Children's Festival. The session was high energy, fun and engaging and felt accessible to children of all writing abilities.'

**Bea Colley, Imagine Children's Festival, Southbank Centre**

'The Little Star Writing Workshop at the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival was an excellent event. It was fun and full of practical help to young writers, really inspiring those who attended. Mel makes everyone feel welcome and relaxed from the start, and they all enjoyed it very much. Everyone was bubbling with ideas for their writing by the end, what a lovely session to host.'

**Clare Armstrong, Oxford Literary Festival**





### **Parent Feedback:**

‘The best thing about Little Star Writing Workshops for me is that my daughter, Morgan gets so much out of it. When I talk with Morgan about Little Star she has so much to say, it gives her great inspiration for writing and clearly they do a lot. The teachers are all very nice and know all of the children well. Mel is really inspiring and so enthusiastic about each child having opportunities to write. She is so fresh about it all. Morgan has been going to Little Star Writing Workshops every Wednesday since last September and she also did a three hour writing workshop retreat in the holidays. She loves it! And it clearly impacts on her reading and writing. Little Star Writing Workshops is a great club!’

**Rebecca, parent to Morgan, aged 10, and Nancy, age 7**

‘I was keen for Will to join Mel's writing workshop, as he didn't always have the opportunity to write creatively in school. Mel is so fun and full of enthusiasm that it rubs off on the kids and she inspires them to really go for it. She teaches them how to structure and approach creating a story, and they work within different genres and styles over the year. The sessions have given Will so much confidence, and she's also done a one to one session with him to help prepare for his 11+ exam too. At the end of the year she publishes a book with all their stories, so all the children can be published authors, which is wonderful. It really is the perfect club, I would happily go along as an adult if I could!’

**Laura, parent to Will, age 11**

‘Both my daughters attend a weekly workshop with Mel at school. They both absolutely love it, it is such a great idea. My older daughter had lost her creativity a little as in school there is so much focus on grammar, punctuation and structure. Mel is brilliant in helping to inspire her creativity and to have fun with her ideas and of course she really helps her to connect paragraphs and to think about a beginning and ending. Mel also offers 1:1 sessions and the great thing is that they don't have to be every week like other tutors, Mel is happy to tutor as little or as often as is needed. In the school workshops, they will work on a topical theme, such as Halloween for their stories and ideas. They also write poetry and even a little persuasive writing. Mel is amazing, inspiring and is really good at making the girls feel like they aren't concentrating the whole time - they have fun. Mel is also very reliable and efficient.’

**Niamh, parent to Tara, aged 11 & Naoise, age 9**

‘I really like that Little Star Writing Workshops is something Millie can do every week which isn't normal curriculum and is just for herself. Mel, her teacher, encourages creativity and individuality in the workshops and I feel she is a key part of what makes Little Star Writing so good. Millie has gained in confidence and I think Little Star has really helped with creative writing and given her opportunity to express herself, which is great. The only thing I would change would be for the workshops to continue for Millie when she goes to Secondary school!’

**Tania, parent to Millie, age 11**





‘My eldest daughter started Little Star Writers weekend work shops a couple of years ago. She was initially quite shy and apprehensive but Mel quickly drew her out and enthused her. She was soon absolutely loving Little Star writers and came out of sessions buzzing with ideas. At school her confidence has grown enormously and her English teachers gave commented on the maturity and creativity in her writing for which I very much credit Little Star writers for developing in her. Now her younger brothers attend LSW after school classes at their school. Like their older sister they both love the sessions and I have seen such an improvement in their confidence as writers. It is wonderful to find an activity where boys can receive such encouragement to grow creatively and to feel proud of their achievements. Next year I hope number 4 will be joining, and she is already asking after hearing her older siblings talking excitedly about their workshops. As a parent I can vouch for the quality of what the children are taught. Here they will learn how to craft a piece of fiction from forming a sound story structure, building and developing a character, taking an idea and running with it to wonderful new places in the imagination. I am so grateful that we discovered LSW!’

**Vicky, parent of 4, ages 13, 11 and 8**

‘The first time I signed my daughter up for LSW my goal was for her to get more confidence in writing. It worked much better than I expected. Her writing improved a lot. She's always exited and counting the days until next lesson. Big thanks to Mel for all the hard work. I can proudly say that LSW is the best after school club and I would recommend it to everyone!’

**Gitana, parent to Kamile, age 10**

‘Lena thoroughly enjoys Little Star Writing which she has been attending for nearly two years. I am always astounded by the content and quality of her stories which she brings home at the end of the term. Imaginative worksheets with lovely ideas are used to motivate children to create texts of different kinds. Last year she and two of her class mates were allowed to meet and interview Axel Sheffler. It has been a magnificent experience which she will never forget. I highly recommend this club! The Little Star Writing team is fabulous!’

**Elisabeth, parent to Lena, age 10**

‘Leyla absolutely loves Little Star Writers and does both the term time classes and the holiday classes. She was always a keen writer but they have inspired a real passion in her. Her writing is so expressive, I wish something like this had existed when I was at school!’

**Jess, parent to Leyla, age 7**

‘Daisy has attended LSW over the last three years. She has a great enthusiasm for the workshops and loves being part of the group. The opportunity to meet authors has helped encouraged Daisy with her own writing which has developed over time.’

**Sarah, parent to Daisy, age 11**

‘Alistair has loved it. I've seen such an improvement in his writing and he now writes all the time at home! It's such a pleasure to see.’

**Colleen, parent to Alistair, age 10**





'Maddy has absolutely loved Little Stars. I thought it might feel like an extension of classroom activity, but she was keen to try and so I agreed, and I'm very glad I did. She comes home excited by the stories she's been able to write and by how much fun the teacher makes the workshops. Her work has amazed me in its creativity and the sessions have given her an avenue and time to write in a way that isn't always available in class. I'm also very impressed by the administration input from the team - Mel always emails me back very promptly if I have any questions, and the reminder emails have rescued me from a potential spot of bother on more than one occasion! Thanks to Mel and the team.'

**Pippa, parent to Maddy, age 9**

'My son has attended Little Star Workshops, which run as a weekly after school club. He has attended the club all through junior school from year 3 to year 6 and has enjoyed it every year due to the great content variety the club offers. He has a love of writing which this club has helped develop. I would not hesitate to recommend this to any junior school aged children both boys and girls.'

**Jo, parent to Alex, age 10**

'Ishaan has been going to the Little Star Writing after-school club and Writing Retreats for quite some time now. He had always been a writing enthusiast, but ever since he joined LSW, his creative energy was channelled in the right direction, and the difference it made to the quality of his writing is clearly evident. He has won the ArtsRichmond Young Writers' award in his category this year, and also made it to the second round (top 3%) of the BBC 500 Words competition. LSW's unique teaching style makes learning very enjoyable for the kids, and the tutors are very friendly, kind and helpful, encouraging the kids at every step. The different themes for the workshops have immensely helped Ishaan weave his thoughts into beautiful stories. They are truly incredible at tapping the hidden writing potential in the children in a fun-filled, creative environment, and their motivation is kept up by giving them an opportunity of publishing their writings in books, magazines and more. Moreover they have author events and the LSW festival every year, which Ishaan always looks forward to attending. Apart from being a very efficient administrator, Mel is the friendliest and the most helping teacher that a kid could ever hope for, and she has truly inspired Ishaan to discover the spectrum of creative writing, and to follow his dream to be an author someday.'

**Sudeshna & Pushpal Das, parents to Ishaan, age 9**

'My children really enjoy LSW and always look forward to it. They both find it stimulating and fun and always come home brimming with stories and ideas about what they have been working on. I am also really impressed with how professional and prompt the administration is of the club. It is by far the best run club I have come across.'

**Tom, parent of Eddie and Connie, age 9**

'Can I take this opportunity to say how much my daughter is loving LSW! She is really enthused and it's such a pleasure to see, so thank you!!'

**Sue, parent to Maia, age 8**





'Little Star Writing is a firm favourite with my two daughters and it is great to have another after-school option for two sport-mad girls. Not only are the workshops fun and interesting, but both girls have improved their writing skills as a result. With my oldest daughter about to write SATs, LSW has helped her to build her confidence in writing and literacy and both girls have a passion for creating and appreciating stories. From my side, I know my girls are using their imagination and developing skills that will come in useful throughout their school careers. The tutors make each session fun and interesting, so that the children come out engaged and full of creative ideas. My two often come home from LSW and sit down straight away to write a story of their own. I can't recommend LSW highly enough!'

**Dawn, parent to Paige, aged 11, and Erin aged 9**

'I cannot speak highly enough of LSW. My daughter has been attending each year since it started at her school and eagerly looks forward to each session. LSW gives her an outlet for her imagination and has been a key driver in developing her literacy abilities far beyond those expected for her age. With word games, story writing and guest visits from children's authors LSW manages to encourage, inspire and be fun!'

**Quentin, parent to Serena, age 11**

LSW has really caught the imagination of my daughter and helped her to express it in her writing. Layla has grown in confidence since attending the workshops. She has also been lucky enough to meet and interview the illustrator of the 'Gruffalo' books, an experience she will never forget!'

**Jo, parent to Layla, age 9**

'My girls have attended the after school club, holiday workshops and author events. They have even published their own stories in the LSW book. No matter what it is they have done they are always so engaged and happy it is a joy to see.'

**Mum of twins, Lorna and Kathy, age 10**

'I can't praise LSW enough! My daughter loves it and has learnt so much but in an enjoyable and fun way. It's a great way for her to express herself and immerse herself in the world of literacy that she loves so much. I just wish she could carry on LSW for the rest of her school days! Big thanks to Mel and all of her fantastic team.'

**Rebecca, parent to Hanna, age 9**

'LSW was recommended to us by her teacher as I was looking for after school writing clubs. Since starting at LSW her creative writing skill has improved a lot. She really enjoys going to the club and interacting with other kids and tutors. They also do lots of fun activities throughout the year. If your kid enjoys writing this is the place to go to.'

**Mum to Prisha, age 8**

'I was so surprised how much she enjoyed it as we struggle to get her to engage with schoolwork and homework. I was so pleased with her reaction, I asked her why she doesn't like working at home and she said I'm not fun like LSW! So thank you really hope this makes a difference.'

**Parent to Jaiya, age 8**





'Mel is the most positive person that I know. I had the pleasure of sitting in on the LSW writing workshop at the Imagine Children's Festival. Mel found something positive and encouraging to say to every child about their work - even to my son who had only managed to write two lines. She makes learning fun and inspires all the children to give writing a go, with great results. My extremely reluctant reader and writer loves the weekly classes and has endeavored to recruit as many of her friends as she can. Every child needs an inspiring teacher like Mel.'

**Cara, parent of 2, aged 10 and 8**

'Jessica is talking up in class more and I have also noticed that she is better with her composition when they get writing homework, which was also a big issue for her. This has been down to you so thank you very much!'

**Alexandra, parent to Jessica, age 11**

'Millie is loving LSW and always comes out sooooo inspired, always writing something everywhere we go! So thank you - I run a club to and I know how much energy it takes! You are doing a grand job inspiring all these budding authors.'

**Fiona, mum to Millie, age 9**

'I would just like to tell you that I'm really pleased with your classes and that the kids are really getting creative and enjoying themselves.'

**Muniza, parent to Maham Khan, age 9, and Zacharia, age 7**

'I am so happy that Jadwiga joined your LSW classes! She is very enthusiastic when she talks about the classes. She really enjoys the activities you do together. The most important thing that happened is that she started to believe that writing can be fun and enjoyable! This is such a great and positive change!'

**Elzbieta, parent to Yadviga, age 7**

'Summer loves the lessons. She's always brimming with ideas for stories and loves to put them on paper. Its great for her to have a group to share with and been inspired by. It's an added bonus, to her, that she doesn't have to worry about her spelling (quite right too)!'

**Emily, mum to Summer, age 8**

'I just wanted to let you know that Eli LOVES Little star writers - thank you for providing such a great experience for him! I've enrolled him into the November festival. Please pass on my thanks to Kelly - she's doing a great job.'

**Emily, parent to Eli, age 7**

'Siddharth is eagerly looking forward to continue next term with LSW, as he is finding every LSW session fun and at the same time very educational - Hats off for the great work you are doing!'

**Sridhar, parent to Siddharth, year 8**





'Devon really enjoyed the writing club. He came out buzzing and talking about writing 12 books in a series to then write the Lego Movie 3! Devon also told me the name he is going to use as a writer. I just wanted to say thank you so much for the opportunity for Devon to try a club that is about making writing fun, imaginative and more personal than in the general school curriculum. It's funny how he gets on with his maths homework but can take an hour to write a paragraph for his literacy homework!'

**Tracey, parent to Devon, age 11**

'His first night I got really good feedback from him which is unusual for him as he usually hate any after school extra curricular so I am really pleased. Many thanks for putting on such a wonderful course.'

**Jo, parent to Alex, 10**

'Amy has had a superb time with Little Stars. Thank you SO MUCH for everything you and the other teachers have done for Amy during her time with you so far. Her confidence has much improved, she continues to be inspired and she is busy editing and writing her own newspaper at home this week!'

**Emily, parent to Amy, age 8**

'Thanks very much for all your hard work this term - Evie has absolutely loved your workshops!'

**Louise, parent to Evie, age 7**

'Oliver is really enjoying the course. It is really nice to see him so enthusiastic about his writing.'

**Clodagh, parent to Oliver, age 10**

'Tom loved it so much last term and getting him to write was always such a chore - it's really inspired him.'

**Tamara, parent to Tom, age 7**

'The girls have thoroughly enjoyed LSW and their teachers are pretty thrilled with the quality of their writing, so big thanks to all of you!'

**Rachel, parent to Hannah and Grace, age 11**

'I must say she is loving writing and reading at the moment so a big thank you to you and the team for making it so fun and engaging for her.'

**Karen, parent to Isabelle, 10**

'My son, Zach, joined you at Little Stars Writing workshop this term and has thoroughly enjoyed the club. He really likes all the activities and has become extremely passionate about writing so thank you.'

**Julie, parent to Zach, age 11**

