



## 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.**

'Thank you for organising such a fab visit - it was very inspiring for me to meet all those great readers and writers. I was especially inspired to hear all the amazing work that the Little Star Writers have been doing - their stories were absolutely brilliant! Thank you for creating one of the most inspiring things in children's writing today.'

**SF Said, winner of the Nestlé Smarties Book Prize for children's literature, the BBC's Blue Peter Book of The Year, was nominated for the Carnegie Medal, and is on the CLPE's recommended reading list for primary schools.**

'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 such a great time on Thursday - it was really wonderful to visit two such lovely schools, and to meet so many super-enthusiastic young readers and writers. I was especially impressed with the Little Star Writing session after school. I really enjoyed meeting the Little Star Writers, and it was so powerful to see children having that space to be creative and free with their writing, as well as to gain the confidence to share their work with each other. And the quality of their work was so brilliant and imaginative, too. I can't tell you how much I would have loved to have a similar opportunity when I was their age - it was very inspiring to see, and I'm not at all surprised to hear how much your sessions are in demand!'

**Katherine Woodfine, children's author, shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2016 and longlisted for the Branford Boase 2016 Award, previously Project Arts Manager for Booktrust.**

'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.**

'I really enjoyed my visits and was really impressed with the Little Star set up. It was great to get to three schools in one day and meet so many creative young minds.'

**Malcolm Judge, author, drama teacher, and wannabe-rockstar.**





‘Thank you so much for hosting an amazing visit. It was not only a brilliantly organised day but it was so much fun. The children were enthusiastic, engaged, and a complete joy. From start to finish the day was such a pleasure and it’s obvious that LSW is inspiring a whole new generation of creative writers. Go LSW!’

**Lara Williamson, award-winning author of 'A Boy Called Hope', shortlisted for numerous awards, including the 'Waterstones Children's Book of the Year'**

‘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.**

