



Keynote Speakers



Charlotte Raby

Charlotte is a trained primary school teacher, consultant and ITE lecturer specialising in English and an Open University Reading for Pleasure HEI partnership member. She is also an inaugural member of the English Hubs Council and continues to give advice to the DfE.

Charlotte is a passionate advocate for teaching both the skills of reading and the joy of reading to all children and believes that every child can become a reader. Currently working as Programme Developer for not-for-profit Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, Charlotte has developed both the main and SEND programmes for Little Wandle.



Jonny Walker

Jonny Walker is a mythology teacher and children's writer based in East London. He teaches poetry, creative writing and the Iliad Project in primary schools, and runs poetry retreats in the New Forest for Y5 children from Newham and Redbridge.

Jonny is the author of four children's books in the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds scheme, including 'Myths Don't Frighten Me' and 'It Honked At Me, Ashwin'.

He has been a teacher and Assistant Head in Newham schools since 2011.

Organisations



The Alligator's Mouth

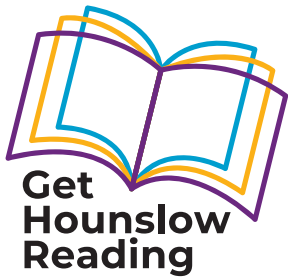
The Alligator's Mouth is an independent children's bookshop in Richmond, stocking books from baby to late teen. We often work with local schools, providing events or stocking libraries. There are regular events in the shop, with frequent author and illustrator visits. In the past we have welcomed Jacqueline Wilson, Chris Riddell, Cressida Cowell, Oliver Jeffers and Axel Scheffler. We were shortlisted for The British Book Awards Children's Bookseller of the Year 2017. The Alligator's Mouth is a bookshop at the heart of the local community with a mission to reach all readers: the confident, the beginner, and the reading-resistant.



HarperCollins

Collins Big Cat fosters a love of reading with over 1,500 carefully levelled readers to support guided, independent and whole class reading. From dynamic fiction to exciting graphic novels to engage reluctant readers, and from poems to fascinating non-fiction, Big Cat has something to inspire and support every child's reading journey.

The programme also delivers a consistent and highly effective approach to early reading with classroom resources and a diverse range of decodable phonics books developed in partnership with the DfE validated Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised SSP.



Authors



Zoe Antoniades

Zoe Antoniades was born in West London of Greek Cypriot parents. She is an English and Drama graduate of the University of Hull and a trained teacher. Zoe has taught in Lambeth and Hounslow working on a wide range of creative projects in partnership with the Southbank Centre, the Royal Albert Hall, the Young Vic and Polka Theatre, Music for Youth and Film Club. Zoe also works as a creative writing workshop leader providing interactive classes and author talks.

Now signed with Andersen Press, Zoe has been working on a brand new series about twins, Cally & Jimmy. There are currently three books in the series and have proved very popular with KS1 and LKS2 readers.



Josh Lacey

Josh Lacey is a London-born children's author. He has written about 30 books; his first published work was A Dog Called Grk. This series of eight books has been translated into 12 languages. He is also the writer of the popular Dragonsitter series for 6-9 year olds. Josh's most recent series is about Hope Jones, a 10 year girl who is very worried about climate change. Hope Jones Saves the World is the first book in the series and was shortlisted for the Little Rebels Award in 2021. In 2022, he published his first picture book – The Pet Potato

As a local author based in West London, Josh enjoys visiting schools to talk about his work.



Lucy Noguera

Lucy Noguera is a children's author, she lives in Ealing, London with her family. She was a primary school teacher and then a teacher of the deaf before starting her own small educational company. She has worked with many schools arranging and planning book-based events and projects, all with the aim of encouraging children to develop a lifelong love of reading.

Her first chapter book – Swop The Satsuma-Sized Secret is a 7+ chapter book, designed to be very accessible. It's dyslexic-friendly both in layout and font. It has illustrations throughout and is the first in a new series, the second one Swop The Daring Dinosaur Detective is due this year.

Her first picture book, Herman Needs A Home, is an adventure story underpinned by themes of conservation and the effects of plastic pollution on marine wildlife and beaches.