

Primary

Festival Author Visits: 4-9 February 2020

Gelong Thubten

Jeannie Baker

Kate Hindley

Linwood Barclay

Martin Kiszko

Maz Evans

Nadiya Hussain

Onjali Q. Raúf

Roma Agrawal

Ross Collins

Zanib Mian

Month of Reading Author Visits: 1-10 March 2020

Afra Atiq

A.R. Bukhatir

Eco Warriors: Colette Barr and Leona Collins

Magic Phil

Maryam Al Serkal

Gelong Thubten



PRIMARY

Age Group: 6+

Year: Primary Year 1+

Audience size: Flexible

Date of session: Thursday 6 February

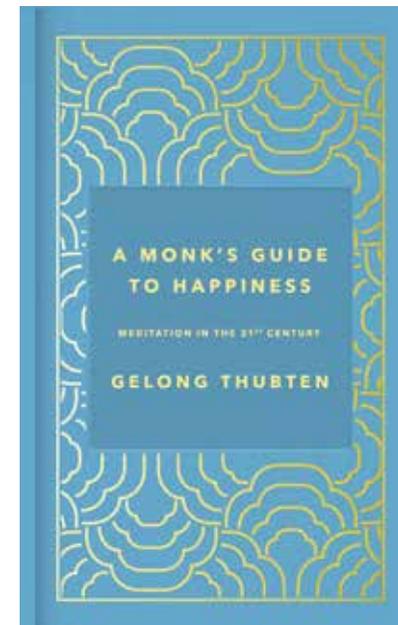
Buddhist monk **Gelong Thubten**, is a world pioneer in the mindfulness movement. Mindfulness is a form of non-religious meditation, using breathing techniques, paying attention to the present moment, as well as developing positive thinking and clarity of mind. Recent scientific research has shown the beneficial effects mindfulness has upon brain activity.

Thubten would like to present two sessions, one for Primary and one for Secondary during his visit to your school.

For Primary: He will discuss mindful moments, to develop greater focus and happiness.

For Secondary: He will discuss mindfulness and its benefits for reducing stress, improving focus and happiness and learning to keep a free mind in the modern age of social media and digital distraction.

Gelong Thubten teaches meditation and mindfulness at major global companies and organisations, as well as hospitals, prisons and schools. He was the meditation consultant on the set of Marvel's movie, *Dr. Strange*, where he trained Benedict Cumberbatch and Tilda Swinton. He is the author of the Sunday Times bestseller, *A Monk's Guide to Happiness* and co-author of *How to Be Human*.



Jeannie Baker



Throughout her 40-year career, **Jeannie Baker** has perfected the art of collage. She uses materials gathered from the world around her, such as bark, feathers, cracked paint, sand, knitted wool and rusty tin, allowing their natural textures to become an integral part of her beautiful and deeply creative work. These individual works of art are then used to illustrate her picture books.

Jeannie will give a presentation sharing her secrets, showing some of her original artwork and encouraging students to personally explore and play with collage.

Jeannie Baker's 14 illustrated children's books, have won numerous awards including the Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year Award, British Book Design and Production Awards and The American Library Association Notable Book Award. Her many titles include: *Playing with Collage*, *Circle*, *Mirror*, *Window* and *Where the Forest Meets the Sea*.

<https://www.jeanniebaker.com/>

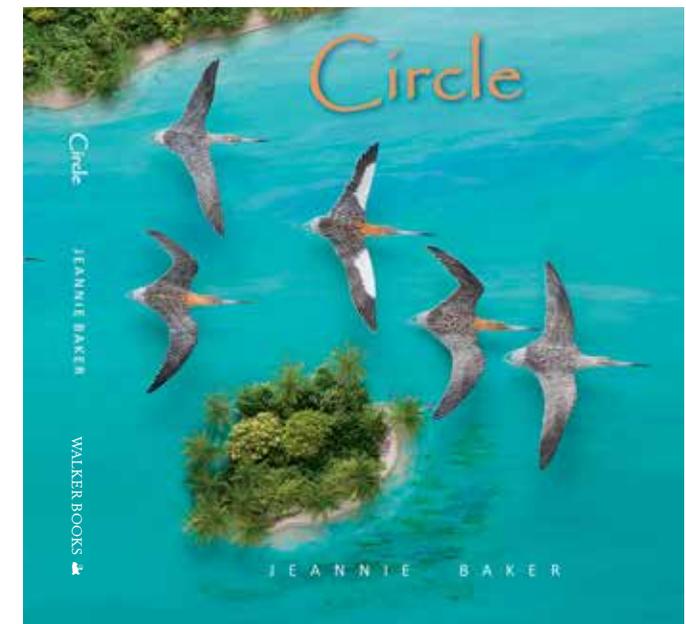
PRIMARY

Age Group: 8 to 11

Year: Primary Year 3 to 6

Audience size: Large Group (up to 100)

Date of session: Thursday 6 February



Kate Hindley



PRIMARY

Age Group: 4 to 7

Year: FS2 to Year 2

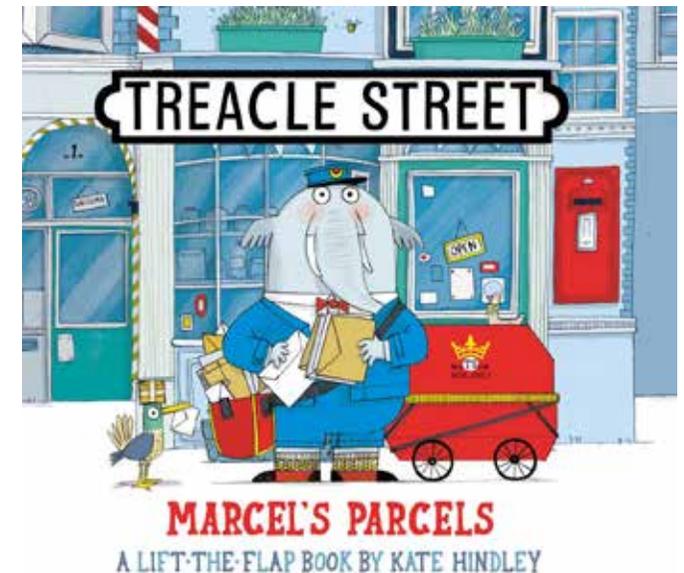
Audience size: Workshop (Class size up to 25)

Date of session: Thursday 6 February

Do you love to draw? So does **Kate Hindley**! Come along and see how she begins to illustrate a picture book and end up with some sketches and tools needed to develop your own picture book story.

Kate will start the workshop with a short presentation from one of her picture book projects, with lots of examples from her sketchbook work, followed by a hands on brainstorming and sketching session based on a fairytale with a focus on character design and development.

British author and illustrator, **Kate Hindley**, has illustrated over 40 children's books, including the Treacle Street series and The Royal Rabbits of London series.



Linwood Barclay

PRIMARY



Age Group: 9+

Year: Primary Year 4+

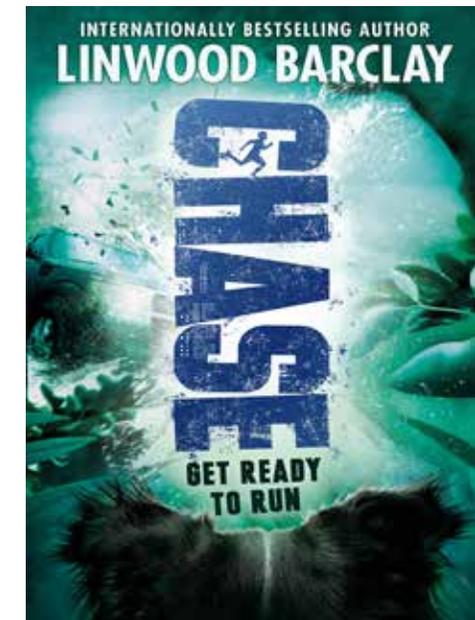
Audience size: Flexible

Date of session: Tuesday 4 February

International bestselling crime writer **Linwood Barclay** has written a children's mystery-adventure series inspired by his childhood that has all the characteristics of his adult novels - action-packed, filled with danger, secrets and thrilling suspense.

Join **Linwood** as he speaks about his books *Chase* and *Escape* and how much of his first children's book is actually taken from his own childhood experiences. He began writing stories at the age of eight and was told if he spent less time writing stories he might do better in maths. He will also speak about pursuing your dreams and doing what you're compelled to do.

Linwood Barclay is the author of seventeen novels for adults, including *No Time for Goodbye*, *Trust Your Eyes* and *A Noise Downstairs*. Both his children's novels, *Chase* and *Escape*, won the Arthur Ellis award for Best Kid's Crime Novel.



Martin Kiszko



PRIMARY

Age Group: 8 to 11

Year: Primary Year 3 to 6

Audience size: Performance Large Group.
Workshop Flexible

Date of session: Wednesday 5 February

Audiences around the world have dubbed **Martin Kiszko** the 'UK's Green poet.' His books, workshops and show explore what it means to be green and are funny, enlightening and thoughtful whether you're a greenie, non-greenie or in-betweenie. It's all about saving the planet through the power of poetry!

Martin will present either a performance or a workshop.

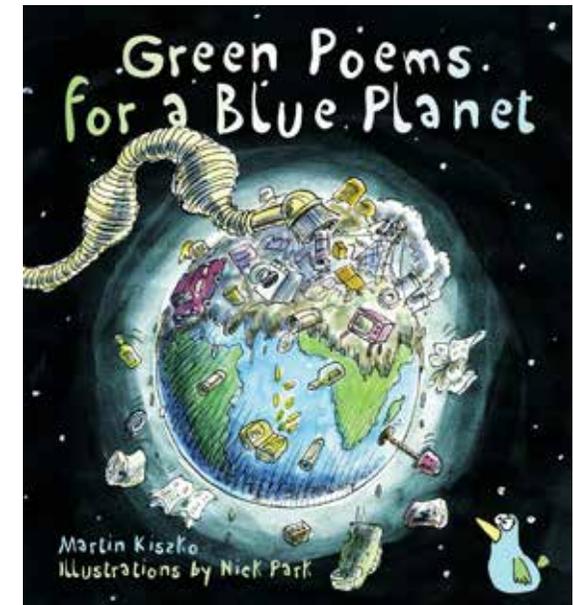
Green Poems for a Blue Planet Performance (50 minute performance):

From disappearing tigers to lost whales and from football to 'poo power', **Martin** says 'I hope this show will provoke a thought, raise a smile, start a conversation, spark an idea, turn on a few 'green lights' and spur us into action.'

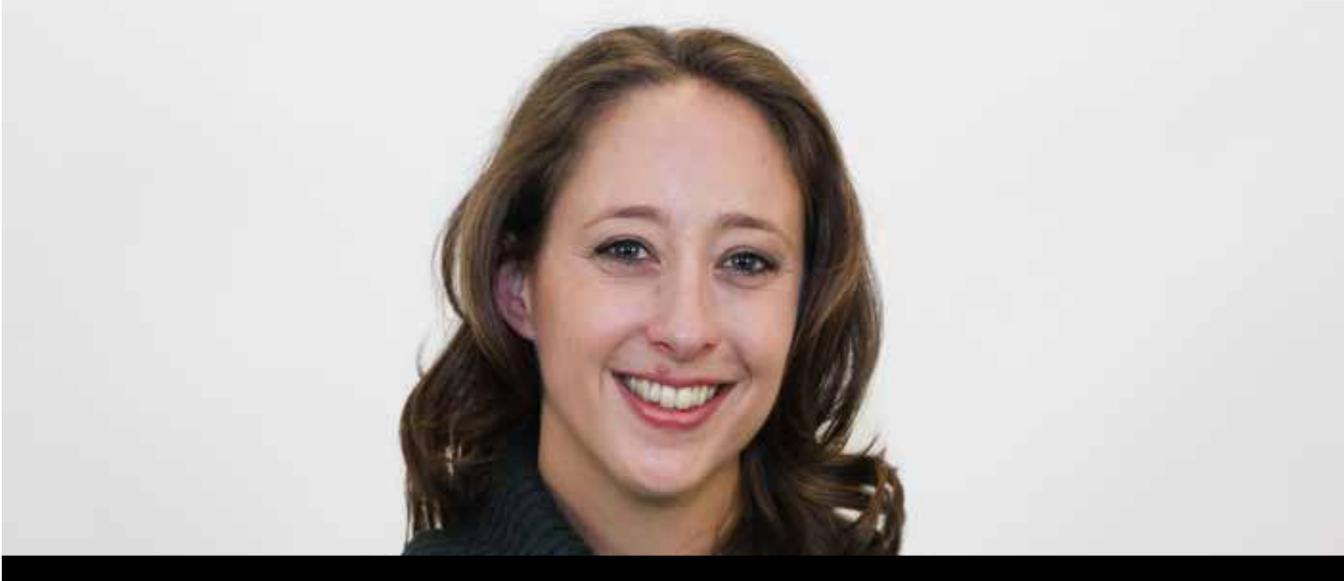
Green Poems for a Blue Planet Poetry Workshop (40 minutes):

Poetry to turn you GREEN!!! Write and perform a green poem then write it on any reusable piece of junk, plastic, trash or litter you find or bring along! How environmentally friendly and poetic can you get!!!?

Martin Kiszko, poet, composer and screenwriter is the author of *Green Poems for a Blue Planet* and *Verse for the Earth*.



Maz Evans



PRIMARY

Age Group: 10+

Year: Primary Year 5+

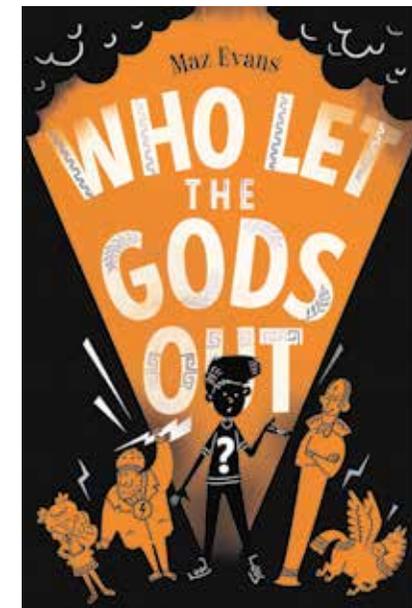
Audience size: Large Group

Date of session: Thursday 6 February

For anyone who enjoys their adventure stories with a liberal sprinkling of mythology, be sure to join **Maz Evans** as she presents a fun-filled fiasco introducing Greek Mythology – as you’ve never seen it before.

Based around the world of **Maz’s** Who Let the Gods Out series and packed with giggles and games, this interactive theatre presentation is both entertaining and educational, so look no further for an epic dose of mythological mayhem!

Maz Evans is a British children’s author and founder of Story Stew, a creative writing programme that has visited primary schools and literary festivals around the UK, including Hay and Imagine. Her books include *Who Let the Gods Out*, *Against All Odds*, *Simply the Quest*, and *Beyond the Odyssey*.



Nadiya Hussain



All of us have our fears, but young children may find it very hard to express their anxieties. Join bestselling author **Nadiya Hussain** as she reads her latest picture book *My Monster and Me*, followed by a question and answer session with the audience.

My Monster and Me is a touching story about a little boy whose worry monster follows him everywhere he goes. This engaging story will help children and parents talk about anxiety and worries and how to overcome them.

Nadiya Hussain, winner of The Great British Bake Off, is a British TV chef, television presenter and the author of several books including *My Monster and Me*, *Finding My Voice*, *Time to Eat*, and *Nadiya's Bake Me a Story*.

<https://www.nadiyahussain.com/>

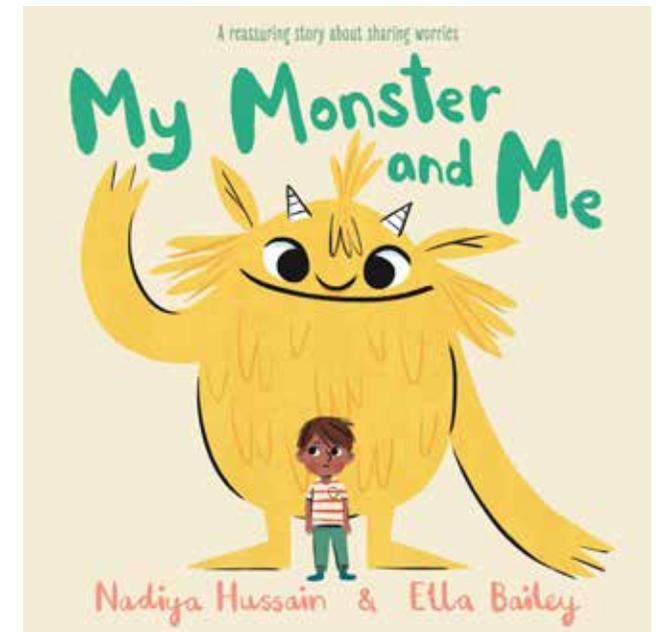
PRIMARY

Age Group: 6 to 7

Year: Primary Year 1 to 2

Audience size: Small Group (up to 50)

Date of session: Thursday 6 February



Onjali Q. Raúf



PRIMARY

Age Group: 10 to 11

Year: Primary Year 5 to 6

Audience size: Large Group

Date of session: Sunday 9 February

"I've always wanted to be a Star Hunter."

So begins **Onjali Q. Raúf's** latest novel, introducing a touch of mystery as well as the warmth and humour that shine through her writing as she explores topics that are dear to her heart.

Join in to hear how she found her inspiration for *The Star Outside my Window* and her award-winning first novel *The Boy at the Back of the Class*; ultimately stories about friendship, hope and dealing with adversity.

Onjali Q. Raúf is an English author and founder of the NGO Making Herstory. Her debut novel, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, was winner of the 2019 Blue Peter Book Award, was the overall winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2019, and was nominated for the Carnegie Medal Children's Book Award.



Roma Agrawal



PRIMARY

Age Group: 8 to 11

Year: Primary Year 3 to 6

Audience size: Large Group

Date of session: Thursday 6 February

Roma Agrawal, STEM advocate and a structural engineer for some of the world's tallest towers, has a knack for reducing complex concepts to their most basic form as she explains the history and beauty of her craft. Her childhood love of Lego and making and breaking things, contributed to her enthusiasm for engineering. **Roma** actively promotes scientific and technical careers to young people and is a diversity campaigner who champions women in engineering.

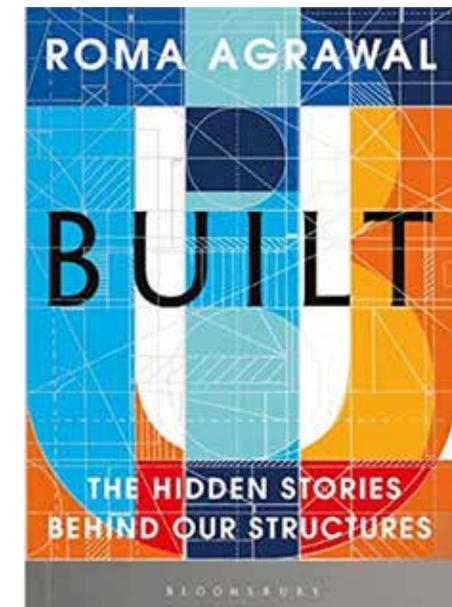
She will present your choice of one of the following talks.

Skyscrapers: The turning points through millennia that have led to the exponential increase in the height of our towers.
Find out about the key scientific advances that have greatly influenced how we design our tallest towers today.

Of Pee and Poo: Dealing with water and waste. Find out how humans have employed incredible ingenuity in sourcing Nature's elusive water sources - such as the huge cisterns of the Romans to the Persian kariz, and also carefully planned to rid their cities of waste - including Japan's fascinating turd-trade.

Roma Agrawal, MBE, FICE has worked on several major engineering projects, including the Shard building in London. She is the author of *Built: The Hidden Stories Behind our Structures*.

<https://www.romatheengineer.com/>



Ross Collins



PRIMARY

Age Group: 6 to 9

Year: Primary Year 1 to 4

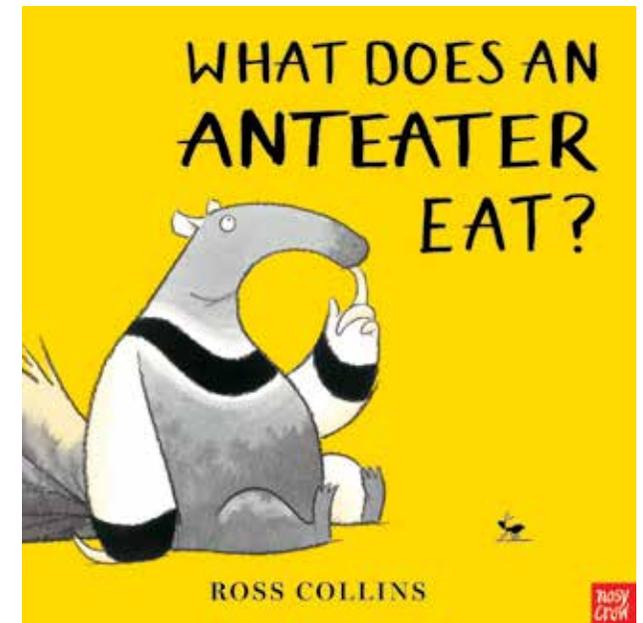
Audience size: Flexible

Date of session: Sunday 9 February

Do you like to draw? Would you like to be an Illustrator?

Come along and join **Ross Collins** in fun-filled session full of silly laughter as he talks about what he does as an author and illustrator, explaining how it works while reading his books, drawing characters and getting the students to draw along too. Finish up the fun with Q&A.

Ross Collins, winner of the Macmillan Children's Book Prize is the author of *What Does an Anteater Eat?* and *There's a Bear on My Chair*.



Zanib Mian



PRIMARY

Age Group: 7 to 11

Year: Primary Year 2 to 5

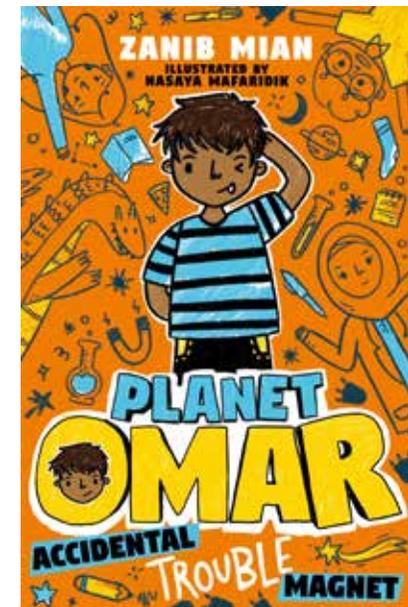
Audience size: Large Group (up to 300)

Date of session: Wednesday 5 February

Leap into Omar's everyday world to explore life and all its issues from his imaginative point of view. Speaking through the voice of her main character, 7 year old Omar, **Zanib Mian** portrays a British Muslim family, highlighting just how regular they are with hilarious text and fantastic cartoon-style illustrations. The Planet Omar series is perfect for fans of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series.

Zanib will present a talk on the Planet Omar series, focusing on the characters in the book; how she developed them and what others might have in common with them, and perform a simple Science experiment since both of Omar's parents are scientists and the family have dedicated Sundays for Science fun!

Zanib Mian's books have been featured on BBC's Cbeebies Bedtime Stories and The Guardian for their contribution to diversity in children's literature. Her titles include *Accidental Trouble Magnet: Book 1 (Planet Omar)*, *Oddsockosaurus*, and *It Must Have Been You*.



Afra Atiq



Born in Dubai, **Afra Atiq**, the first female Emirati spoken word artist says, 'Where will the world be without the poets, writers, artists, painters and sculptors?' **Afra** will present some of her poems, share some tips about performing spoken word, talk about the importance of poetry and spoken word in today's world and answer questions.

Afra Atiq is a spoken word artist, the first Emirati to perform at the legendary Nuyorican Poet's café in New York and winner of the Poets NY poetry slam.

PRIMARY

Age Group: 10+

Year: Primary Year 5+

Audience size: Flexible

Date of session: March 1 to 5, 8 to 10



A.R. Bukhatir



Join **A. R. Bukhatir** as he presents his book *Dragon Boy and the Curse of the Fallen Prince*, reads selections from the book, shares a video and discusses books and genres the students like to read and movies that inspire them.

A.R. Bukhatir is an Emirati businessman, Nasheed singer and author, born in the United Arab Emirates. In 2016, A.R. won third place in the Montegrappa Writing Prize with his novel *Dragon Boy and the Curse of the Fallen Prince*, the first Emirati to win this award.

<https://arbukhatir.com/>

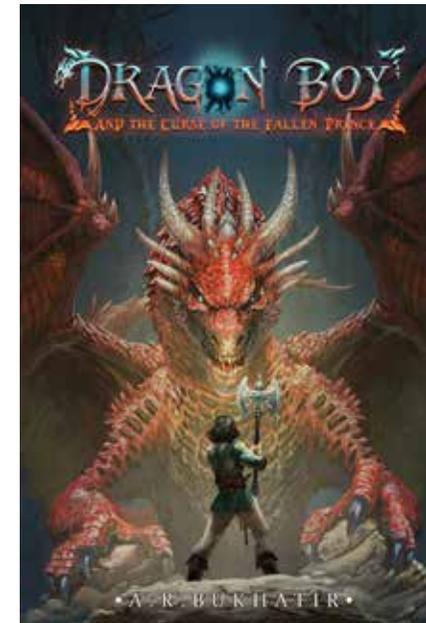
PRIMARY

Age Group: 10+

Year: Primary Year 5+

Audience size: Class size

Date of session: March 1, 3, 5, 8, 10



Eco Warriors



Eco Warriors, **Colette Barr and Leona Collins**, will introduce the Eco-heroes series characters through a short video and briefly give some background on how they came to be on their recent journey of writing, illustrating and self-publishing. They then invite the children to engage and interact on a number of interesting topical, environmental and social issues, such as recycling, reducing food waste, plastic pollution and finding alternative energy sources.

Save Our World, is a local Dubai company based in the UAE focused on the environment. Author **Colette Barr** and illustrator, **Leona Collins** have recently launched *The Eco-heroes* and *The Plastic Planet*. The other titles in the series are *The Eco-heroes Fight for Food*, and *The Eco-heroes Recycling Trip Trouble*.

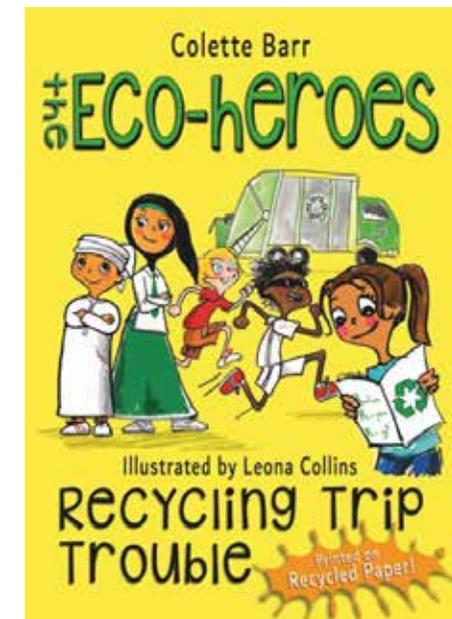
PRIMARY

Age Group: 6 to 11

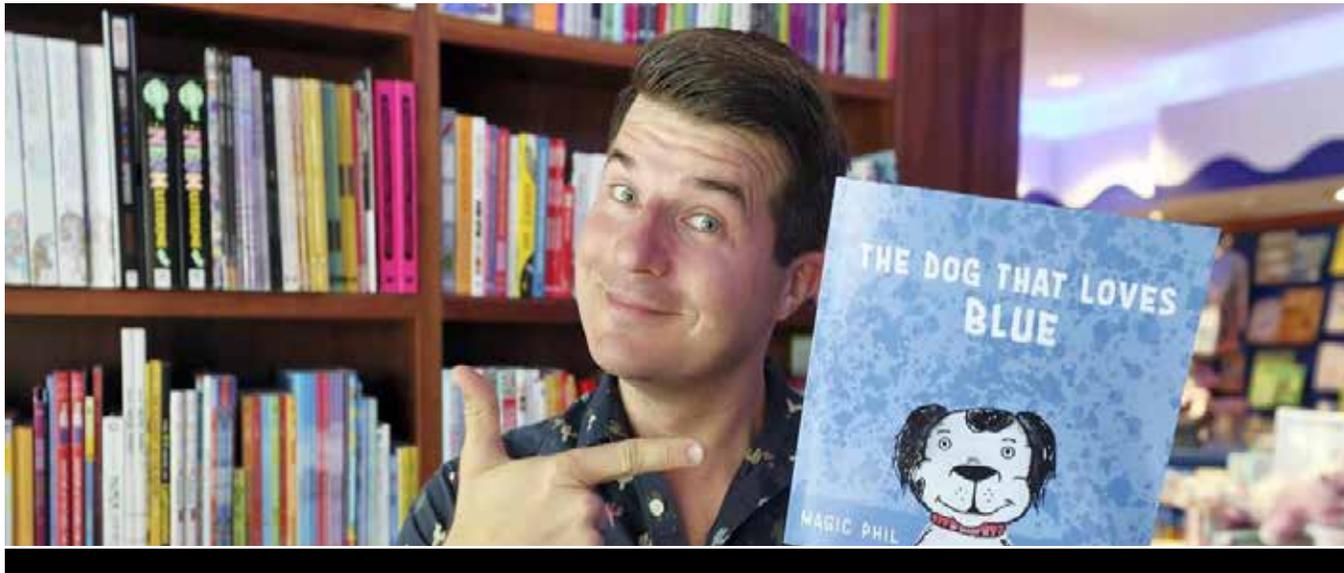
Year: Primary Year 1 to 6

Audience size: Large Group

Date of session: March 1 to 5, 8 to 10



Magic Phil



Prepare yourselves for an interactive session as **Magic Phil** conjures not only some amazing magical marvels but also some super colourful storytelling . . . Just why does the camel love red while the dog prefers blue? Here is an event to get your day off to an amazingly lively start!

Magic Phil is one of Dubai's best-known entertainers and a hit with all his young fans. He is the author of *The Dog That Loves Blue*.

<http://magicphil.ae/en/#>

PRIMARY

Age Group: 3 to 6

Year: FS1 to Year 1

Audience size: Large Group (up to 200)

Date of session: March 1 to 5, 8 to 10



Maryam Al Serkal



Do you have curly hair or straight hair? Mira wishes her curly hair was straight like her mama's, until one day, when the weather is damp, she discovers that maybe she isn't quite so different from her mother as she thought.

Join Dubai's very own **Maryam Al Serkal**, in an interactive reading of *Mira's Curly Hair*, to hear the tale of Mira and her curls, and find out why it doesn't really matter whether our hair is dark or light, curly or straight!

<http://www.themaryamwrites.com>

PRIMARY

Age Group: 4 to 7

Year: FS2 to Year 2

Audience size: Small Group (up to 25)

Date of session: March 1, 3 to 5, 8 to 10

