

Primary Schools Info Pack (PreK-Y2)

A storytime with children's author

Kathy Urban



Children's author Kathy Urban offers visits to nurseries and pre-schools as well as assemblies & creative writing workshops for primary school classes.

Her visits are fun and interactive and will help stimulate students' imagination and boost their confidence to develop their language & creative writing skills.

Kathy likes working closely with educators to tailor any visits and book-related activities to their needs, age groups and units of enquiry.



About the author

Kathy Urban is a children's book writer and journalist who has reported on news, entertainment and environmental stories for more than a decade.

Her books are inspired by her experiences as well as fond childhood recollections of muddy forest adventures, building homes for tiny insects and a shelf filled with Astrid Lindgren books.

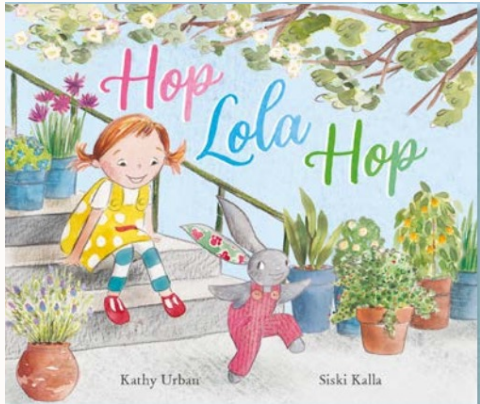
An advocate of reading, Kathy is passionate about promoting a life-long love of literature in the very young.

In a professional and a voluntary capacity, Kathy works hard to spread the joy that books can bring to little people's lives.

Kathy has lived in the UK, the US, Denmark and Germany, and these days, calls Dubai her home.



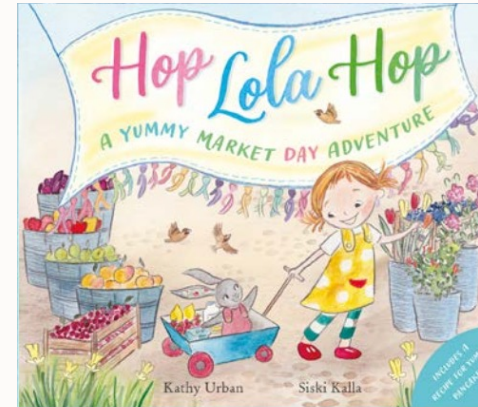
Books written by Kathy Urban



Hop Lola Hop

Lola is a little toy bunny who likes to go on fun adventures. But one day, she Hop! Hop! Hops! ... just a little too far.

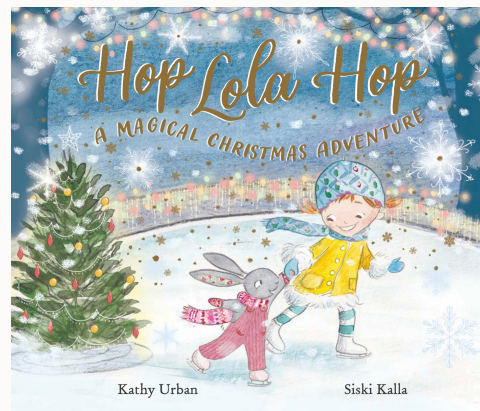
Ella is a young girl who is heartbroken when her beloved bunny goes missing. How are they going to find each other again?



Hop Lola Hop - A Yummy Market Day Adventure

Hop away with Lola and Ella in another magical adventure, full of heart, hope and yummy food as the friends explore the local farmers market.

All is well until - once again - Lola Hop! Hop! Hops ... just a little too far. All because she wants to help Ella find a special ingredient for their picnic.



Hop Lola Hop – A Magical Christmas Adventure

It's very nearly Christmas and it promises to be a magical one for Lola and Ella ... that is until our little bunny realises that someone else is about to enter their lives and change everything.

Will Ella still have time for her bunny? And what's Santa got to do with it?

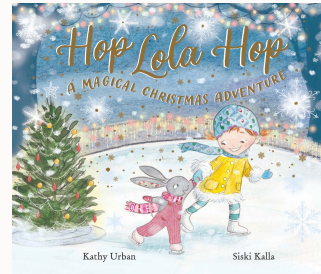
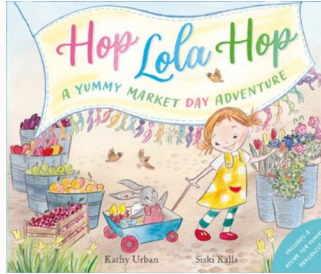
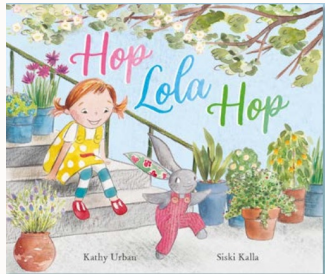


Kind Little Hands (coming October 2024)

A chance encounter sparks a heart-warming rescue mission, as a young boy, Noah, tries to revive a tired bee which he finds on the streets of a busy city. A touching, uplifting story, offering young readers the opportunity to explore how to be active citizens and caring individuals in an ever-changing world.

About the

Hop Lola Hop series



Education Applicability

- *Hop Lola Hop* is a delightful series about a much-loved toy bunny, who likes to go on fun adventures. Sometimes the bunny gets lost. Most children have a comforting toy so this story has universal appeal.
- **Key themes of imagination, friendship and comfort run throughout the series and the stories highlight the emotions brought about when losing something special.**
- Each story takes the reader on a new adventure, a situation and environment children will be familiar with from going out on walks or to the market.
- **Sound words throughout the book help build little readers' vocabulary, making these stories the ideal read-aloud companion for toddlers and preschoolers to read together with their caretaker.**
- There are secret bunnies to spot and find throughout the book, encouraging emerging readers to revisit the story independently.





Kind Little Hands

(releasing October 2024)

- **Inspirational story** about a young boy who saves an exhausted bee , something that can happen in many cities around the world.
- A good conversation starter for **sustainability** and other ways to become **active global citizens** in today's fast changing world.
- Includes important **facts about bees** and how to help them, with a list of child- friendly actions contributed by **Buglife – The Invertebrate Conversation Trust**
- A proportion of the sales of this book will go towards Buglife's conservation work to restore and create new wildflower habitats in the UK.

If you're interested to receive updates and information about this book's release, special events or to book, please email Kathy directly: Kathy@hoplolahop.com



Author Visits Overview

The below is an overview of the packages available for PreK-KG-Y1-Y2.

Please specify the particular session you are interested in.

Kathy likes working closely with schools and is happy to adjust her sessions to accommodate your school's needs.

➤ Package 1

2-hour visit | Character Meet & Greet | Storytime

➤ Package 2

Up to 5 hours | General Assembly or in class visits for ONE year group |

➤ Package 3

One day for ANY number of year groups | Assembly & In Class Visits |

School Checklist:

- ✓ If required, seek ADEK or KHDA approval
- ✓ Prepare schedule of presentations
- ✓ Projector/screen, microphone for assemblies and in class visits
- ✓ Schools are kindly asked to provide crafts materials, drawing pads/whiteboards for in class visits
- ✓ Seek approval for honorarium payment prior to visit
- ✓ For safety reasons, we ask for at least one member of teaching staff to remain present throughout each session

Package 1

General Assembly suitable for Pre-K – Kindergarten – Y1 – Y2

Approx. 2hrs

This includes one 40-minute presentation followed by short visits to classrooms, giving students the opportunity to engage with Kathy in workshops and activities.

During this time, Kathy will offer:

- an interactive storytime and a character meet & greet
- Optional Question and Answer session with the audience.
- Schools can choose multiple activities based on Kathy's books to extend their learning in classrooms. For Year 2, you may choose a story-writing workshop as well.
- Optional book-signing session.



Package 2

Assembly and in-class visits suitable for Pre-K – Y2

Up to 5 hours for ONE year group

Kathy will offer an interactive storytime, a character meet & greet followed by a Q&A and a choice of activities based on either of Kathy's books.

For **Year 1 and 2**, Kathy will extend her presentation to talk about the book making process. You may choose a story-writing workshop as well.

Book-signing session at the end of the day.



• Package 3

Assembly & In Class Visits suitable for Pre-K – Kindergarten – Y1 – Y2

Up to 6 hours for ANY number of year groups PreK-Y2

This is the most flexible package, accommodating visits across several year groups and can be tailored to your school's needs.

Kathy will offer a choice of assembly presentations and in class visits, which may involve a combination of Q&A, a set of book related activities and creative writing challenges for Y1 and Y2

Book-signing session at the end of the day.

Creative Writing Activities

Suitable for Y1-Y2

1. Create your own book cover

A book cover is more than just a pretty picture. Kathy will offer a short introduction about the importance of book covers, highlighting key elements such as title, art and blurb. Students are then encouraged to create their own book covers.

2. Write an Alternative Ending

In the story, Lola the toy bunny embarks on an unexpected adventure. If you were Lola, what adventure would you go on? Kathy will tie in this writing challenge with a presentation and challenge students to share an 'alternative ending' to the story. If visiting several year groups, this challenge can be adjusted and works well in large assembly presentations.

3. Letter Writing

Hop Lola Hop features a letter written by one of the characters. Kathy will extend her presentation to talk about the history and art of letter writing. She will then ask students to write a letter to a person of their choosing, telling them about their favourite toy.

4. Write your own toy adventure

During this in class workshop, Kathy will help students map out an original story, before moving on to write and illustrate their own picture book either in groups or individually. Please note, students are not expected to finish this task during the workshop.

In Class Activities

Hop Lola Hop suitable for PreK-KG-Y1

1. Den Building Activity

Great for team building, children use different boxes, blankets and other recyclable materials to repurpose and create their own hideouts/fort structures.

2. Playdough bunny making

Using playdough or other modelling mass, children create their own bunnies

3. Puppet Making activity

Children can create their own storytime puppets. There are different templates available (Lollystick puppets or Sock Felt Puppets)



4. Create your own story character

Using different scrap materials, children are encouraged to use their imagination and create their own unique story characters

5. Sensory tray replay activity

Create your own Lola & Ella Peg Dolls and replay Lola's adventure on the Common using a specially set up sensory tray.

6. Design your own Lola

Using a printable template and scrap & crafts material, children can design Lola's beautiful bunny ears and give the bunny's trousers their own unique look.

Free printable templates and other resources can be downloaded

On www.kathyurbantales.com



In Class Activities

A Yummy Market Day Adventure suitable for PreK-KG-Y1

1. Dramatic Role Play activities

Children can use a mud kitchen / market set up for their own chef creations or go shopping using a list of ingredients to buy.

2. Recipe making

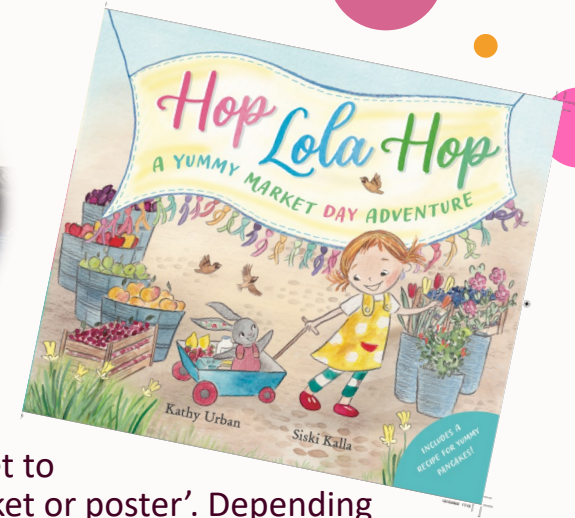
Depending on availability, follow a recipe to make your own playdough or bake pancakes with the help of a grown up using the recipe in the book.

3. Seed Planting activity

Children can paint their own fun ceramic pots or other item and plant it with flower seeds.

4. Put the children's taste buds to the test

How well can children identify what they are eating? This activity gets children to mindfully taste, smell and describe what they are eating, it is also a great way to introduce new fruit and vegetables into their diet.



5. Arts & Crafts activity

Using fruit stamping technique, children get to design their own fruit-inspired 'picnic blanket or poster'. Depending on resources availability, this can be done on textile or paper surfaces.

6. Sensory tray replay activity

Create your own Lola & Ella Peg Dolls and replay the farmers market story using a specially set up sensory tray.

7. Where does our food come from memory game

This interactive sorting game encourages children to identify where certain products you buy come from.

Free printable templates and other resources can be

Downloaded on www.kathyurbantales.com



In Class Activities

A Magical Christmas Adventure suitable for PreK-KG-Y1

1. Role Play activities

Children use/build a puppet theatre to create a Christmas story using Santa and their favourite toys. Prompts can be provided.

2. Puppet Making activity

Children create their own storytime puppets. There are different templates available (Lollystick puppets or Sock Puppets)

3. Simple Winter Crafts

Using scissors, children learn different cutting techniques to create angel streamers, snowflakes. Templates and ideas can be provided. This is a great activity to help decorate the classroom.

4. Cardboard Crafts Activities

Using shoe boxes, children can create their own puppet theatre / Alternatively, children use various boxes to create their own Santa sleigh.

6. Let's sing

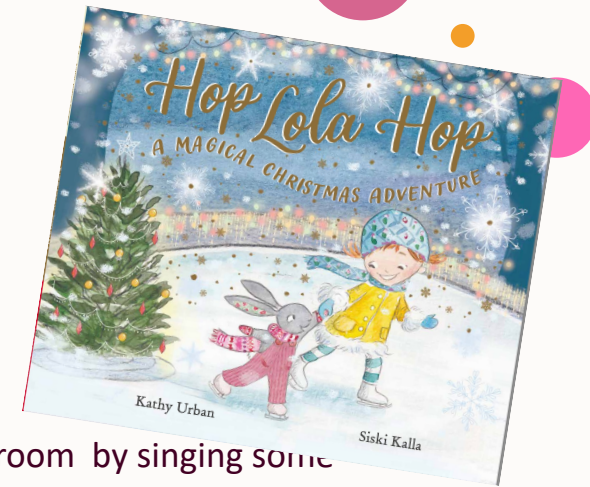
Let's create some holiday cheers in the classroom by singing some holiday favourites.

7. Sensory tray replay activity

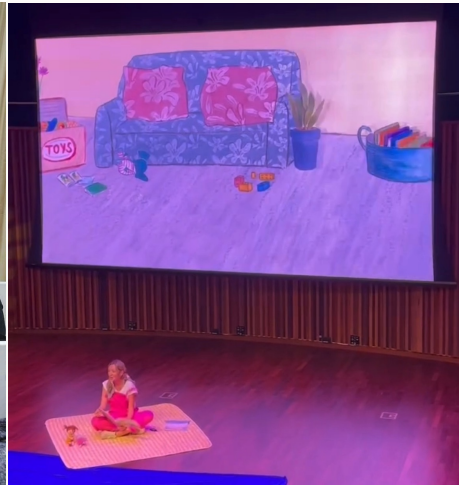
Create your own Lola & Ella Peg Dolls (see activity #2) and replay the story using a specially set up sensory tray.

Free printable templates and other resources can be downloaded

On www.hoplolahop.com



Working with...



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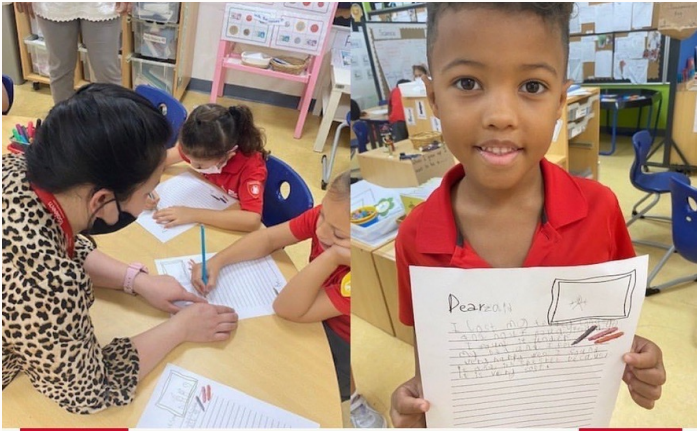


POLKA
Where Theatre Begins

بيت الحكمة
House of Wisdom



RGS Guildford Dubai Children's Letter Writing Competition



**IMPROVING
IMAGINATION AND
CREATIVITY**



**DEVELOPING
LITERACY SKILLS
AND
CONCENTRATION**

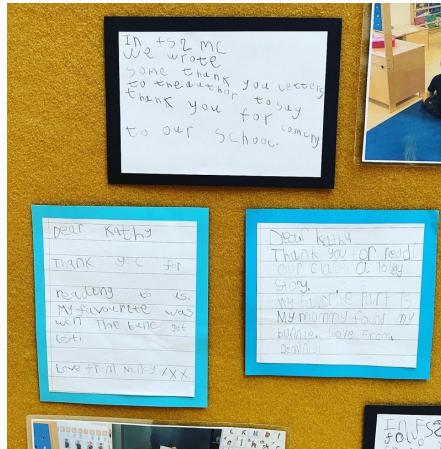
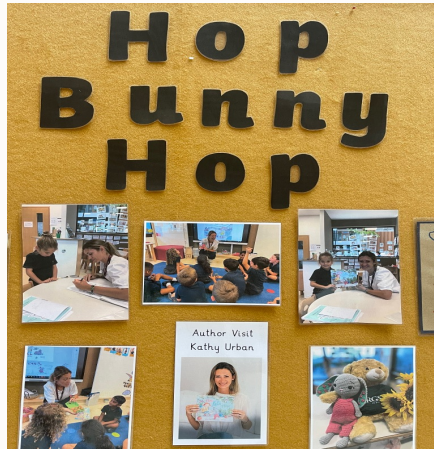


**WORLD
BOOK
DAY**
2 MARCH 2023



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Testimonials



"Thank you so, so much for all of your time and effort in visiting all of the Year 1 classes this week. The children all thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and are delighted to now recognise themselves as authors, having been inspired to make their own books! Your visit really brought our final line of inquiry to life for the children and we are truly grateful to you."

Jodie Sarah Harris - Y1 coordinator
Dubai International Academy

"Our Year 1 classes have been lucky enough to work with Kathy this week. The children enjoyed listening to the wonderful 'Hop Lola Hop' before learning about the writing process. Through the use of toys and images, Kathy brought the story to life and inspired the children to become authors themselves. We have already booked Kathy in for a visit in the next academic year so that we can continue to inspire many more children with her incredible talent. From all of us here at DBSJP, thank you so much and we look forward to welcoming you back in again soon!"

Megan Pankhurst - Das & Head of Writing - Primary
Dubai British School Jumeirah Park

"What a wonderful day we had welcoming back author Kathy Urban to RAK Academy - Khuzam this week.

Kathy's brilliant sessions are always well received by our students from Pre-k to Grade 5, who have enjoyed insightful writing workshops, engaging classroom craft activities, and interactive story times.

Kathy's energy, enthusiasm, and passion for literacy is truly inspiring!

Thank you for sharing your knowledge with us and encouraging our students to imagine themselves as future writers. We can't wait to see what Lola gets up to next!"

Allison Lee
Library Assistant
RAK Academy - Khuzam (Primary)



My Child, A., of grade 3, got the opportunity to meet the author, Kathy Urban at an event organised by British International School. He's 8 years old and enjoys reading very much. This opportunity helped him find guidance as how he could benefit from this hobby of his. He was very fortunate to be able to ask questions to the author, to which she was very kind to take out the time, even after the event to answer the curious questions XXX had. I wanted to extend my gratitude for the opportunity the school provided and to the author as well, to leave an engraving impact on the my child and I'm sure on many others that attended the event. Thank you. Kind regards

Mother of A., Grade 3

"We have been very fortunate to have Kathy working with our children across the entire primary age range this week. Kathy shared book extracts alongside supporting the children with how to create their own stories in an engaging, creative way.

She was the perfect addition to English week and created a real buzz around school.

Thanks so much Kathy!"

(October 2022)

Megan Pankhurst
Das & Head of Writing - Primary



Almost there ...

Announcing the visit – Key to a successful author visit begins with creating buzz and excitement among students, parents and teachers ahead of the day. Kathy will provide a printable poster to display and share in the newsletter. She will further share a letter to introduce herself and her work to the parent community.

Book sales and pre-orders

Owning a book that has been personalized by an author enhances the joy of reading for children, forging a special bond between the reader and the story. This connection not only fosters pride but also extends the impact of an author's visit far beyond the event itself.

Book orders can be arranged directly with the author or – if you are running a book fair - in collaboration with a bookshop. Please communicate with parents ahead of the visit so children can purchase books.

Please note, for every 10 books sold, the author will donate 1 book to a classroom or the school library.

Fees

Are applicable to all visits and have been designed to accommodate different requirements. Please read carefully:

Package 1 (2 hrs)

Appearance Fee of AED 500 **OR** a minimum order of 15 books

Package 2 (up to 5 hrs)

Appearance Fee of AED 1000 **OR** a minimum order of 25 books

Package 3 (6 hrs and more - involving several year groups and a mix of assemblies and in class visits)

Appearance Fee of AED 1000 **AND** a minimum order of 20 books

Fees must be paid in full on the day. An invoice or payment link will be provided prior to the event. Please state if you prefer to make payments via bank transfer, card or cash on the day. A receipt can be emailed after the session.

Social Media

Kindly tag the author on your social media posts

- Instagram: @kathyurbantales
- Twitter: @kathyurbantales

For more information, you can contact Kathy via email: kathy@hoplolahop.com