

Claire Fayers



Where did you grow up?

In Newport, south Wales

Where did you go to school?

Eveswell Primary School and then Hartridge Comprehensive (now Llanwern High School).

What was the best / worst thing about your school?

I loved my primary school. It was a small school with great teachers. I remember story times, with all of us sitting on cushions on the floor while the teacher read to us. It's where my love of stories started.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I didn't really have any clear idea of what I wanted to be. If I'd known that I could become an author and get paid for making up stories, I'd definitely have wanted to do that!

What are your hobbies?

I love music. I've just passed my grade 8 piano exam. I also love gardening, and cooking and trying out new recipes.

When did you consider being an author?

Not until I finished at university and realised there wasn't really anything else I wanted to do. Then I did some courses and started writing short stories, which gradually got longer and longer until I wrote my first book.

Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular?

I love humour and magic, and stories that take you out of your everyday world. I'm a huge fan of myths and legends, especially Welsh stories.

What advice can you give to budding authors?

Read a lot. Join your library if you can – libraries are great. Always write about the things you love. Try writing your own versions of stories you know. You are very welcome to use all the stories in my *Welsh Giants, Ghosts and Goblins* to make your own stories. When you've written a story, put it away for a few weeks, then read it and ask yourself if you can make it better. That's how all authors work. Look out for competitions and share your stories with your friends and family. And keep on trying.

Do you have any rituals when you write?

I like to have a big mug of tea before I start work. I do some stretches too. My friend taught me some and they really help, as you can get very stiff sitting at a desk. It's good to move around a bit.

What's the best / worst part about being an author?

The best thing is being able to make up stories and share them with other people. I love visiting schools and libraries and making up new stories with people.

The worst thing is there are days when I get stuck and it's really hard to write. When that happens, I'll go for a walk, or read, or play the piano for a bit. It's happened with every single book, so if you ever get stuck on a story, don't worry.

Quick fire Questions

What's your favourite childhood book?

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Who's your favourite character from a children's book?

Ember, from *Flame Chasers* by Julie Pike.

Where is your favourite place to write?

At my desk with a big cup of tea.

What's your favourite food?

Salt and vinegar crisps.

What's your favourite film or show?

I recently watched *Lilo and Stitch* and loved it.

What's is your favourite word?

The Welsh word 'cwtsh', which means a nice cuddle.

What would be your superpower of choice?

I'd like to turn into a dragon.

Favourite social media network?

Instagram.

What makes you smile?

My cat.

If not an author what would you be?

A musician.

What's your advice for budding writers?

Read a lot, write often, and have fun.