

Liz Hyder



Where did you grow up?

North-east London.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

For a while, I wanted to run a horse-riding stable which is hilarious as I'm a bit scared of horses, but I grew up at a time when there were lots of books about girls riding ponies which clearly influenced my thinking! I then wanted to be a playwright for a while, but that was more late secondary school after I got taken to the theatre by my drama teacher Miss Morrissey and fell in love with all things theatrical.

What are your hobbies?

I love reading but I also love stories in lots of other forms – theatre, music, films and television. I also like drawing and going for long walks in the middle of nowhere.

What was your favourite book when you were young?

Hard to pick just one but I loved *Quick, Let's Get Out of Here* by Michael Rosen, it's joyful, funny, thought-provoking and very relatable. I've given copies of it away to so many people over the years!

When did you consider being an author?

Not until I was an adult, really. My family didn't know any authors, we never met any, never had anyone come to our schools. I thought books were made up by people far away. I didn't realise anyone can write a book!

What advice can you give to budding authors?

Firstly, just get on and write! The more you write, the more you get to understand what sort of stories you want to tell and how you want to tell them. Secondly, ask yourself questions about the stories you're enjoying and the stories you don't. Why did you like it? Why didn't you like it? What would you have done differently if you'd written it? All of that also helps shape the sorts of stories you want to write.

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

The best part is walking into a bookshop and seeing your book on a shelf and thinking 'I wrote that!' The other best part is getting to run workshops for young people which is just so much fun. The worst part is there's sometimes a lot of admin and emails when really I just want to write or think up some fun workshop ideas!

Quick fire Questions

What's your favourite childhood book?

The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander.

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

Flossie Teacake.

Where is your favourite place to write?

At my desk. I wish I was the sort of person who could write in a café but I get too distracted by listening in to conversations.

What's your favourite food?

A masala dosa. It's a South Indian dish, like a thin crispy crepe with savoury spiced potato filling and comes with little pots of delicious chutneys and sambar...

What's is your favourite word?

Brilliant! Or amazing...

What would be your superpower of choice?

To to be invisible for a day!

Favourite social media network?

BlueSky but I like being able to share pictures on Instagram too.

What makes you smile?

Most things. Everything from seeing a butterfly on a flower to smiling at strangers and seeing them smile back. It's good to appreciate the joy of small things, as well as bigger things.

If not an author what would you be?

Unemployed.

What's your advice for budding writers?

Get writing!