

RESOURCES PACK

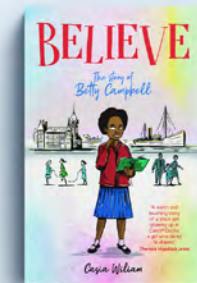
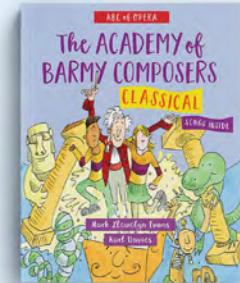
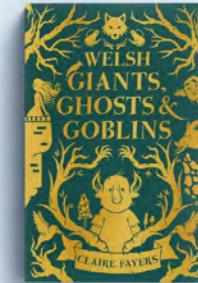
BOOK
SLAM 2026

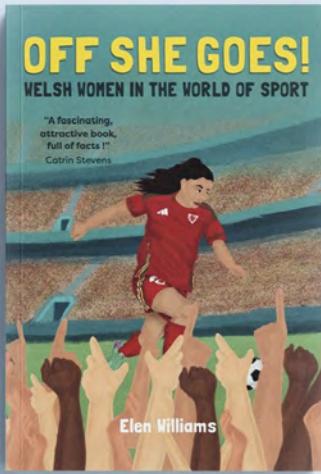
Years 3-6



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Off She Goes! Welsh Women in the World of Sport

Elen Williams

Gwasg Carreg Gwalch | 978-1-845279-87-5

The opportunities and resources for girls and women in Wales to develop their sporting skills were lagging behind for years, but things are getting better. This book celebrates the achievements of those women who have succeeded in their field, despite facing all sorts of challenges.

Discussion questions that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

- Did you know about the people in the book before reading it? Are any of the celebrities from your area?
- What have you learned from reading the book?
- Do you like sports? Do you have a favourite sport? Why?
- Do you have a favourite football player or follow a particular team?
- If you were to meet one of the stars of the book, what three questions would you ask?
- Can you do research to learn more about the history of women's rights, in football specifically or in other areas, or in general.
- Do you think reading non-fiction books is different from reading fiction books? Why is that?
- What do you prefer: fiction or non-fiction?
- What do you think is the message of the book?
- The book contains inspiring stories. What does the word 'inspiring' mean to you?

Activities that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

Why not design your own sports kit, trophy or medal? Look at pictures of kits, trophies or medals on the internet or in books to get ideas, and then create your own. You can do this on paper, or using items that you might have in the classroom e.g. clay, cardboard, etc.



Or:

Why not research the history of the national anthem of Wales? Why not create your very own music poster with the lyrics of the anthem?



Enjoyed Off She Goes! Welsh Women in the World of Sport?

Why not try these next?

- *Wondrous Women of Wales* – Medi Jones-Jackson – Y Lolfa
- *Me and Aaron Ramsey* – Manon Steffan Ros – Firefly Press
- *Welsh Wonders series* – Broga
- *Wonderful Welsh Sporting Heroes* – James Stafford – Y Lolfa
- *Over the Mountains and the Sea* – Jane Burnard – Gwasg Carreg Gwalch

Author Profile

Elen Williams

Where did you grow up? Eifionydd.

Where did you go to school? Ysgol Gynradd Chwilog and Ysgol Glan y Môr, Pwllheli.

What was the best/the worst thing about school?

I loved art and hated the loud school bell!

What did you want to be when you grew up? An artist.

What was your favourite book when you were young?

Y Dynion Bach Od.

What are your hobbies? Farming, reading, and being outdoors.

What makes you happy? My children.

What makes you angry? Wasting time!

When did you consider being an author? When I began competing in local eisteddfodau when I was young.

Where do you get your ideas from? From the people and things around me – and books, of course!

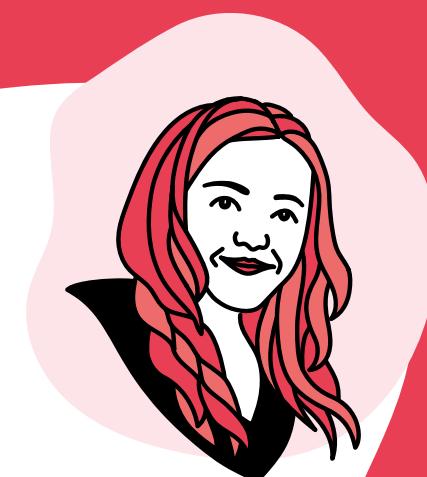
Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular? Animals, magic, and people.

What advice can you give to budding authors?

Inspiration is only 1% of being an author; the other 99% is putting your head down and working.

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

Sharing information and interesting stories with others.



Quick Fire Questions

What's your favourite childhood book?
y Dynion
Bach Od and the
Harry Potter
series.

Favourite place?

Anywhere
with my
family.

Favourite social media network?
Instagram.

Favourite place?

Anywhere with
my family.

What makes you smile?
Happy
children
on a sunny
day.

If not an author? Ideal job?

A full-time
artist.

Favourite film or show?

Too much
choice!

Favourite food?

Sunday
lunch.

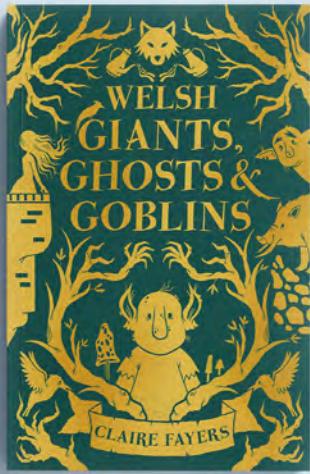
Superpower of choice?

Being able to
survive without sleep.

Favourite word?

ymlaen!
(Onwards!)

Top tip for budding writers?
Read, compete,
and enjoy!



Welsh Giants, Ghosts and Goblins

Claire Fayers

Firefly | 978-1-915444-70-7

A mix of giant, ghost and goblin stories from all parts of Wales, collected, retold and reimagined by Claire Fayers, with the character of Idris the giant weaving through the book as he collects stories on his adventure.

Discussion questions that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

- These stories are inspired by other stories, myths and legends from all over Wales. Can you find any located in your local area?
- These stories include characters that may be considered to be 'baddies'. Why do you think stories need baddies?
- Do you enjoy reading or hearing myths and legends? Why so?
- Do you have a favourite story from the book? Why?
- Have you heard of the Seven Wonders of Wales? What can you find out about them? Which one is closest to your school?
- Do you know what century the original tales originate from? Do you have a favourite century or historical period? Why?
- If you had a magical power like one of the characters in the book, which would you choose and why?
- There are lots of giants in Welsh mythology, including Ysbaddaden Pendragon from the Mabinogi. Do you know of any others?

- Which do you prefer: stories about ghosts, goblins or giants? What about other magical characters like mermaids or fairies?
- Can you write your own descriptions of a character from each story, and then draw a picture of what they look like next to the description?



Activities that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

“Stories change. Every time you hear or read a story and tell someone about it, you will change bits, and that’s a good thing. The stories we tell should say

something about us and the world we live in, and so we should put our imagination into them.” (page 3) In groups or in pairs, create your own ghost, goblin or giant story. You could then create your very own radio show and record yourselves reciting your stories. Remember to choose music to play in the background – we recommend something spooky if you choose to create a ghost story!

Or:

Why not design your own magical museum full of enchanted objects inspired by those in the book, such as the set of stones decorated with carved spirals, zigzags and waves (page 105), and ones from your own imagination.

Enjoyed Welsh Giants, Ghosts and Goblins?

Why not try these next?

- *More Tales from the Mabinogi* – Siân Lewis – Dragon Press
- *Welsh Fairy Tales, Myths and Legends* – Claire Fayers – Scholastic
- *The Mab* – Eloise Williams and Matt Brown – Unbound
- *Culhwch and Olwen* – Catherine Fisher – Graffeg
- *The Sleeping Stones* – Beatrice Wallbank – Firefly Press



Author Profile

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. But 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.

What was your favourite book when you were young?

I'm not sure I had a favourite, I loved so many different books. I love funny books, so Roal Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* was a big favourite. Also Enid Blyton's Wishing Chair and Faraway Tree series.

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. 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.



Quick Fire Questions

What's your favourite childhood book?

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

What makes you smile?

My cat.

Superpower of choice?

I'd like to turn into a dragon.

Favourite character from a children's book?

Ember, from Flame Chasers by Julie Pike.

Favourite word?

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

Favourite social media network?

Instagram.

If not an author? Ideal job?

A full-time artist.

Favourite food?

Salt and vinegar crisps.

Favourite place to write?

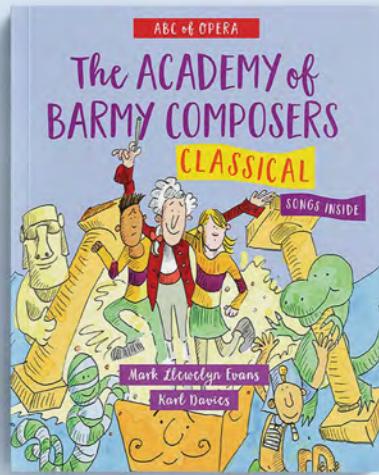
At my desk with a big cup of tea.

Favourite film or show?

I recently watched Lilo and Stitch and loved it.

Top tip for budding writers?

Read a lot, write often, and have fun.



ABC of Opera: The Academy of Barmy Composers – Classical

Mark Llewelyn Evans

Graffeg | 978-1-912213-87-0

A school trip goes from boring to brilliant when Jack and Megan are reunited with their old friend Trunk and travel back to the Classical period and the cities of Salzburg and Paris, discovering the music of Windy Wolfie (Mozart), Tortellini Rossini, the moody yet resilient Bilious Beethoven, and many more.

Discussion questions that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

- The book celebrates singers from the world of opera, but can you think of any famous dancers? What famous dances can you name? And where/which country are they from? For example, the salsa comes from...
- What did you know about the world of opera before reading the book?
- Have you learned more about the world of opera by reading the book?
- The book is part of a series. Have you read the other books in the series? Would you like to?
- Can you do research to compare the history of opera with another topic or genre of music, e.g. history of rock and roll or folk music?
- Jack and Megan go to different cities in the book. Have you heard of the cities of London, Salzburg, Vienna and Paris? Have you learned anything?
- What other cities do you know about? How do they compare to Welsh cities?
- Do you enjoy adventure? What kind of adventures have you had?

- The book focuses on the Classical Period which is 1750–1820. What else happened during those years?
- Do you like history? Do you have a favourite period of history? Why?



Activities that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

Why not create a join-the-dots picture of a trunk, treasure chest or an instrument in the book, or a self-selection, and then exchange your picture with a friend to complete it? You can use dots or numbers!

You can also include a description or a poem to accompany your picture.

Or:

As a whole group or class, why not create a music video for a song from the book or a self-selection? Listen to the song in class, learn the words, and then perform the song in front of the camera. You will have to edit the video and show the finished clip on the big screen in front of the whole school!



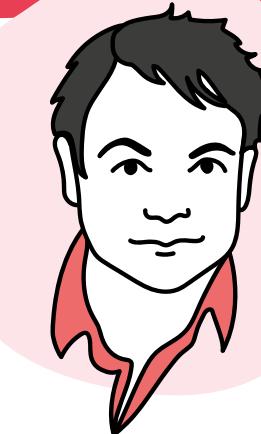
Enjoyed *ABC of Opera: The Academy of Barmy Composers – Classical?*

Why not try these next?

- *ABC yr Opera* series – Mark Llewelyn Evans – Graffeg
- *The Christmas Cat at St Fagan's* – Myrddin ap Dafydd – Gwasg Carreg Gwalch
- *Libby and the Egyptian Escapade* – Jo Clarke – Firefly Press
- *Searchlight: Treasure Hunt* – Ann Bryant – Graffeg
- *History Grounded* – Elin Jones – Gwasg Carreg Gwalch

Author Profile

Mark Llewelyn Evans



Where did you grow up? Carmarthen – home of dragons, daffodils, and dodgy school dinners.

Where did you go to school? Queen Elizabeth Cambria Carmarthen – now called QE High (they changed the name after I left... coincidence?)

What was the best/worst thing about your school? Hated it! My reading was rubbish, but I was the first boy to take cookery for O Level (now GCSE). And I could make people laugh, which is basically a superpower, right?

What did you want to be when you grew up? A policeman... or maybe a singing detective?

What are your hobbies? Running (away from deadlines), watching films, and cooking anything edible (or mildly experimental).

What was your favourite book when you were young? The Famous Five series – Timmy the dog was my role model.

When did you consider being an author?

Never! It just happened after school visits when the children demanded more stories. I basically got peer-pressured by 8-year-olds!

Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular? Adventure, knowledge, fun, and a bit of cheekiness.

What advice can you give to budding authors?

Everyone has a story to tell. I find it hard to concentrate, and it can be lonely... but when the magic happens, it's totally worth it.

Do you have any writing rituals? Nope – unless drinking coffee counts?

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

The silence. It's golden, until your brain fills with dramatic voices.

Quick Fire Questions

What's your favourite childhood book?
Anything by Enid Blyton.

What makes you smile?
People being people.

favourite social media network?
Not great at them... is toast a platform yet?

Superpower of choice?
Time travel – or kindness, which we all already have.

If not an author? Ideal job?
An opera singer with a seaside deli.

favourite character from a children's book?
Tintin (mainly for the hair).

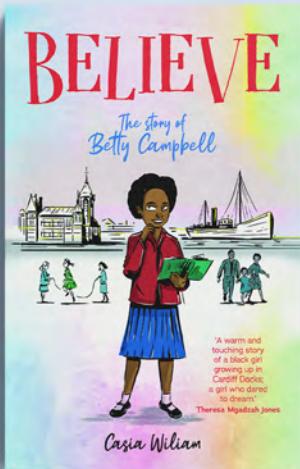
Favourite food?
Curry, or steak and chips.

Favourite word?
Discombobulated (I even wrote a song about it!).

Favourite place to write?
By the sea (with snacks).

Favourite film or show?
Pretty Woman.

Top tip for budding writers?
Never give up!
'Amdani, Blant Cymru'
(That's Welsh for 'Go for it, Children of Wales!')



Believe - The story of Betty Campbell

Casia Wiliam

Gwasg Carreg Gwalch | 978-1-845279-61-5

In 2021 a statue of Betty Campbell was unveiled in Cardiff; she was Wales' first black headmistress. In this novel, which weaves fact and fiction, history and humour, we can read about the real Betty – about her family, her childhood in Cardiff Docks in the 1930s, her period at Aberdare as an evacuee, and her incredible journey afterwards.

Discussion questions that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

- Is Betty's story inspiring? Why?
- What kind of person was Betty?
- If you met Betty, what three questions would you ask her?
- What have you learned from reading Betty's story?
- Have you visited Betty's statue in Cardiff? Would you like to have her reading her own story?
- What else do you know about the 1930s?
- What type of work would you like to do when you grow up? Would you like to be a teacher?
- What else do you know about Cardiff's history? Can you do research to create a fact file?

Activities that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

Why not choose an inspirational person from history and create a portrait or profile of them? Use whatever medium you think will best suit your hero or inspirational person. Why not choose a celebrity from your village, town or city? You can display your portrait as a newspaper article for your local paper or community website.



Or:

A memorial statue stands in Cardiff to remember Betty Campbell and her important work and inspiring story. Have you seen it? Why not design your own memorial to Betty? You can use words and pictures from the book to inspire you! Think about: where will your monument stand? What will it look like? What materials will be used in your memorial?



Enjoyed *The Story of Betty Campbell*?

Why not try these next?

- Wondrous Women of Wales – Medi Jones-Jackson – Y Lolfa
- Welsh Wonder: Betty – *The Determined Life of Betty Campbell* – Nia Morais – Broga
- We are Wales – *Stories of Diversity and Belonging* – Haf Llewelyn, Gail Sequeira, Richard Parks, Chantelle Moore – Atebol
- *Brilliant Black British History* – Atinuke – Bloomsbury Publishing

Author Profile

Casia William

Where did you grow up? In Nefyn, in Pen Llŷn – the big arm that sticks out in north Wales! It's a very beautiful part of the world, with lots of mountains and beaches.

Where did you go to school? Ysgol Nefyn, and then Ysgol Botwnnog.

What was the best/worst thing about your school?

I had a fantastic Welsh teacher who encouraged me to write all the time! The worse thing for me was science lessons, I couldn't get my head around it!

What did you want to be when you grew up? I'm still not sure! At one point I did want to be a zoo keeper, but I always knew I wanted to write too.

What are your hobbies? I enjoy reading and writing very much. I also love going on bike rides, watching films and cooking.

What was your favourite book when you were young? My favourite Welsh book for a long time was *Gwe Gwenhwyfar*, and when I was a little older I loved Philip Pullman's fantasy trilogy – *His Dark Materials*.

When did you consider being an author? My mum is an author, so for me it always seemed like an option!

I always loved writing and it was the thing that I was good at.

Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular? I like writing about people and animals, especially when writing for children.

What advice can you give to budding authors?

Read anything and everything, and find out if there are any competitions near you, that could be a short story competition, or even a comic-design competition. Have a go!

Do you have any rituals when you write? No, not at all. I have two young children so I tend to write whenever I have some peace and quiet!

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

The best part is easy – someone telling you they've really enjoyed one of your books. The worst part is sometimes missing out on fun things because I have to stay at home to write, because the thing about writing is you have to sit down and do it!



Quick Fire Questions

What's your favourite childhood book?
Gwe Gwennhwyfar.

What makes you smile?
My two sons.

Favourite social media network?
Instagram.

Favourite character from a children's book?
Ifan Bifan.

Favourite food?
Toast with butter!

Superpower of choice?
To be able to stop time.

Favourite word?

Llanast - it's the Welsh word for mess!

If not an author? Ideal job?

Professional treasure hunter.

Favourite place to write?
In our spare bedroom, which is pink.

Favourite film or show?
Ace Ventura - Pet Detective.

Top tip for budding writers?
Just keep writing!



The Street Food Festival

Gail Sequeira

Atebol | 978-1-801064-54-5

When the school's lovely walled garden is under threat, it's time for Mr Thomas' Gardening Club to take action! The street food festival is organised as a community event, to raise money. Children source recipes from their families' diverse cultures and use the products that they have grown in the garden to create street foods from all over the world. Part of the Rhyming Scheme.

Discussion questions that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

- Have you tried any of the foods in the book? Which one? Did you like?
- Which recipes would you like to try and why?
- Do you have a favourite food?
- The book celebrates community and culture. What comes to mind when you hear those words?
- What do you think the message of the story is?
- Have you been to one of the countries that are celebrated in the book? Or is there a country you would like to visit and why?
- What other foods are famous from Wales? Can you make a list? You can of course also choose another country.
- Have you been to a food festival before?
- What other kinds of holidays do you know about?
- If you and your friends were to organize a festival, what kind of festival would you choose and why?

Activities that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

There are many recipes in the book. Why not try making one or more of them at school or at home? Remember that you must measure the ingredients and follow the instructions in detail.

Or:

Look at the map at the beginning of the book. Why not do research to find out more about world cultures and add facts. Or, you could design a map yourself and include a key to help people use it?



Enjoyed The Street Food Festival?

Why not try these next?

- *Wales on the Map* – Elin Meek – Dragon Press
- *Pawb a Phopeth: Byd y Gymraeg/ World of Welsh* – Elin Meek – Rily
- *The Christmas Cat at St Fagan's* – Myrddin ap Dafydd – Gwasg Carreg Gwalch
- *Searchlight: Treasure Hunt* – Ann Bryant – Graffeg

Author Profile

Gail Sequeira

Where did you grow up? In India. I was born in Bombay, but have lived in Delhi, Chandigarh, Vishakapatnam, Mangalore, Bangalore and Goa.

Where did you go to school? Bombay, Delhi, Chandigarh, Vishakapatnam and Mangalore. What was the best/worst thing about your school? The libraries were my favourite places in all the schools I went to. I'm a dreamer and afternoon lessons were the worst because I'd be off with the fairies within 5 minutes of the teacher beginning to talk.

What did you want to be when you grew up? A carpenter.

What are your hobbies? Writing, gardening, cooking, swimming, walking, eating – and playing the piano (badly).

What was your favourite book when you were young? Little Women.

When did you consider being an author? In 2021, when I wrote my first book.

Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular?

Anti-racism, equality in diversity, working together, supporting our fellow humans, nature and the environment.

What advice can you give to budding authors?

Write always for yourself and when you come to publishing, don't give up.

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

The best part for me is losing myself in a world I have created. The worst part is when people find out about my published works, and they ask me what I'm working on next.



Quick Fire Questions

What's your favourite childhood book?
The Exiles by Hilary McKay.

Favourite character from a children's book?
Phoebe from The Exiles.

Favourite place to write?
My bed.

What makes you smile?
Happy animals being naughty.

Favourite food?
Roti Chenai.

Favourite word?
Outrageous.

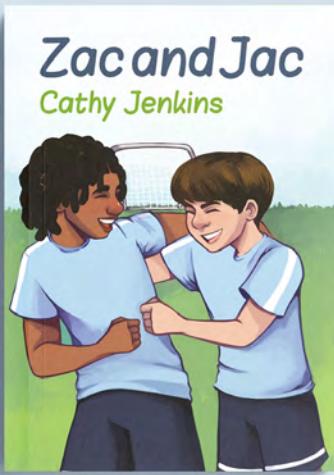
Favourite film or show?
Somebody Feed Phil.

Favourite social media network?
Instagram.

Superpower of choice?
Teleportation.

If not an author what would you be?
Miserable.

Top tip for budding writers?
Write always for yourself and when you come to publishing, don't give up.



Zac and Jac

Cathy Jenkins

Graffeg | 978-1-802586-46-6

Nine-year-old Jac sees his father as a hero, but when Jac joins a local football team with his best friend Zac, things start to get a bit weird at home. It's not until a group of professional footballers come into school to talk about racism that Jac realises what his father's problem could be. Part of the Rhyngom Scheme.

Discussion questions that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

- Do you like football? What other sports do you like and why?
- There are several examples of racism in the story. Find them in the book and discuss them as a class. Why is racism unacceptable? What can everyone do to be anti-racist?
- In football tournaments (and many other sports), the results and points are recorded in a table. Do you know what statistics are recorded? How do you get to the top of the table?
- The first chapter is called 'My Hero'. Do you have a hero? In your opinion, what makes a hero?
- There is a list of activities at the back of the book. Do you like this idea? Can you think of any other activities to add to the list?
- How does football affect Zac? What about Jack? What about their families?
- What are the main themes in the book? Can you find examples?

- Did you know about the Windrush or the Bristol Bus Boycott before reading the novel? Why not do more research to learn more?
- What comes to mind when you consider the word ‘equality’? Why not discuss this in small groups?
- Each chapter has a name. Do you like this idea? What does naming a chapter add to the reading experience?



Enjoyed Zac and Jac?

Why not try these next?

- *Me and Aaron Ramsey* – Manon Steffan Ros – Firefly Press
- *We are Wales – Stories of Diversity and Belonging* – Haf Llewelyn, Gail Sequeira, Richard Parks, Chantelle Moore – Atebol
- *Raz Beri* – Matt Stephens – Firefly Press
- *Off She Goes! Welsh Women in the World of Sport* – Elen Williams – Gwasg Carreg Gwalch
- *Stupendous Sports: Fantastic Football* – Robin Bennett – Firefly Press

Activities that work across the Areas of Learning and Experience

Singing and music play a big part a football games. Why not compose your own verses that you could sing during a game?

Or:

Why not design your own kit for a local football team or the national Welsh team (women’s or men’s) for home and away games?



Author Profile

Cathy Jenkins

Where did you grow up? Swansea.

Where did you go to school? Waunarlwydd Primary School and Gowerton Comprehensive School in Swansea. I then studied Drama at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff.

What was the best/worst thing about your school?

I loved anything to do with Drama, singing and creative writing and hated anything mathsy.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A pop star!

What are your hobbies? Writing and reading, and I also enjoy long walks and I go to the gym regularly.

What was your favourite book when you were young?

I loved the Ladybird book fairytales with those amazing illustrations.

When did you consider being an author? From childhood I always had the idea that I could write a book but I didn't try until I was in my forties! As I got into it, I got the growing feeling that this was what I really wanted to do with my life.

Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular?

The theme of parents and children, and the strength of these

relationships always seems to surface in my work. I think it's probably because becoming a parent had such a profound effect on me – it changes you and your view of the world.

What advice can you give to budding authors?

I know it sounds like a cliché, but just keep going. Rejection is part of the experience. I've lost count of the rejections that I've had over the years, but I knew that I couldn't stop until I'd experienced that magic moment of holding a book with my name on the cover. It's so worth it in the end!

Do you have any rituals when you write? No, but I need complete peace and lots of coffee!

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

The rejection is hard. It's so frustrating when you know that you have something that readers will enjoy but can't find anyone to share your vision. The best part is chatting to young people about a book that's actually come out of my head and hearing that they've enjoyed it.

That will never get old!



Quick Fire Questions

What's your favourite childhood book?

I didn't read it as a child, but my favourite children's book is *Goodnight Mr Tom* by Michelle Magorian.

Favourite food?

Joe's ice cream with chocolate sprinkles (it's a Swansea thing!).

Favourite social media network?

I'm on Instagram but I hardly ever post. I'm not really a fan...

Favourite place to write?

My kitchen.

Superpower of choice?

Invisibility.

Favourite character from a children's book?

Zero in Holes.

Favourite word?

When my son was little, he used to mix the sounds upwards. I loved pronunciation of the word 'spider' - 'badass'!

If not an author? Ideal job?

I have to say a teacher I suppose, because that is my day job!

Favourite film or show?

I'm obsessed with *The Handmaid's Tale* - but it's definitely for grown-ups!
Favourite film: *Hairspray*.

What makes you smile?

Sunshine. The hotter the better!

Top tip for budding writers?

Keep going. Believe in the power of your ideas and don't compare them to anyone else's.

BOOK SLAM

2026



Ariennir gan
Llywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

Arranged and coordinated by the Books Council of Wales