

# Hop Lola Hop

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 schools to tailor any visits and book-related activities to their needs, age groups and units of enquiry.

“Once there was a toy bunny, who liked to hop! Hop! Hop! – sometimes a little too much!”



# About the author

Kathy Urban is a multilingual journalist and the author of the Hop Lola Hop series about the adventures of a beloved bunny. Her books are inspired by her experiences as a parent and her daughter's favourite comfort toy.

Kathy grew up admiring the works of great storytellers and the imaginary worlds they created. But it was the stories her dad told her that prompted Kathy to make up tales for her own children.

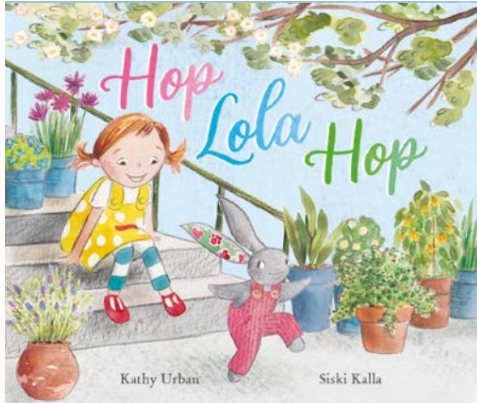
An advocate of reading, Kathy is passionate about promoting a life-long love of literature in the very young.

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

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



# Books

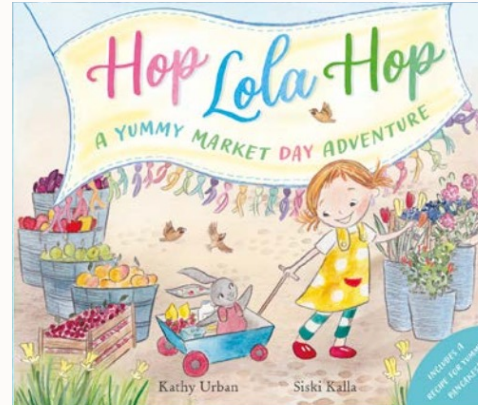


**Hop Lola Hop**

*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?*

*A magical, heart-warming tale about an adorable lost toy bunny and the feelings and emotions that come with losing something special.*



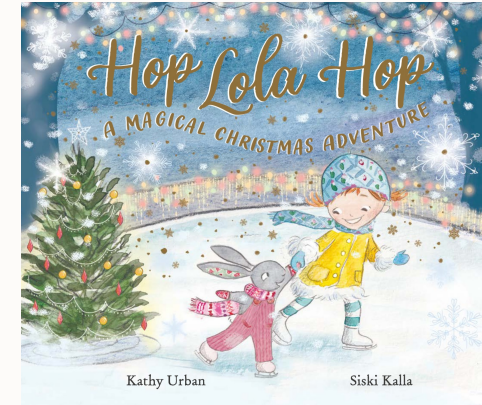
**Hop Lola Hop**

**A Yummy Market Day Adventure (30 April 2023)**

*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.*

*Does Lola discover what she is looking for? And will the friends be reunited in the end?*



**Hop Lola Hop**

**A Magical Christmas Adventure (October 2023)**

*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?*

*Join the little toy bunny as she Hop! Hop! Hops! onto her most amazing adventure so far.*

# Education Applicability

- *Hop Lola Hop* 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 pre-schoolers to read at bedtime.**
- There are secret bunnies to spot and find throughout the book, encouraging emerging readers to revisit the story independently.



## Sessions

The below is an overview of the types of sessions available for various year groups. Please specify the particular session you are interested in. Please note, if you're interested to organise sessions across several year groups, these may have to be organised as visits over several days.

Storytime suitable for pre-school and nursery classes | Duration 30-40 MINS

General Assembly | Duration 1 block | Years 1 - 6 | possible in combination with workshops

Workshops | Duration: 1-2 blocks | Year 1 - 2

Workshops | Duration: 1-2 blocks | Year 2 and up

# • Sessions

## Storytime suitable for pre-school and nursery classes | Duration 30-40 MINS

Kathy will offer an interactive storytime, a character meet & greet followed by a choice of simple storytelling and free play activities that have been designed in consultation with early years teachers and Little Steps Publishing. Children learn best when all of their senses are involved and they're actively encouraged to discover the world around them hands on.

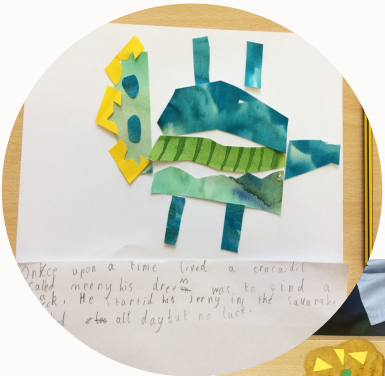
- Free play based activities inspired by Kathy's book are designed to strengthen children's **fine motor skills**, build **self confidence** and develop a **love of discovery**
- Schools can choose activities based on either book. Please see a selection of examples below. Activities can be tailored to each class groups' needs, ages and units of enquiry.
- Please note, schools are kindly asked to provide materials for any crafts activities

# Sessions

## for pre-school and nursery classes

### Hop Lola Hop

- Create your own story character
- Bunny making activity using modelling mass
- 3-D storysetting creation
- Fort Building Activity



### Hop Lola Hop – A Yummy Market Day Adventure

- Fruit stamp painting activity
- Where does our food come from workshop (incl seed planting activity)
- Playdough recipe making
- Imaginary outdoor play



# Sessions

## General Assembly | Duration 1 block | Years 1 - 6

- **Presentation tied in with a Q&A** about becoming an author and the book making process (a projector and an adaptor is required to plug in my laptop)
- **Storytime** – Choice of either book (for older year groups I can extend the presentation and use excerpts from either book as reference)
- **Optional:** Introduction to creative group activity which are to be completed in individual classroom units (to be agreed with year group reps)
- **Book signing** upon request



# Sessions

## Workshops | Duration: 1-2 blocks | Year 1 - 2

Based on requirements, Kathy offers these workshops in double blocks or together with a general assembly. Worksheet templates will be shared. I can work with an interactive whiteboard but access to traditional whiteboards or a flipchart to write/draw on are also very helpful .

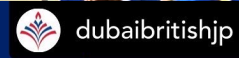
- **Character creation craft** through the use of different materials (Children are encouraged to invent a storysetting and write a description of character and setting)
- **Creating a Story Roll** through the use of pictures and simple vocabulary (ideal for year groups who are not yet confident enough to write full sentences)
- **Letter Writing (based on book 1):** Hop Lola Hop features a letter written by one of the characters at the beginning of the book. Students are asked to write a letter to a person of their choosing, telling them about their favourite toy.

# Sessions

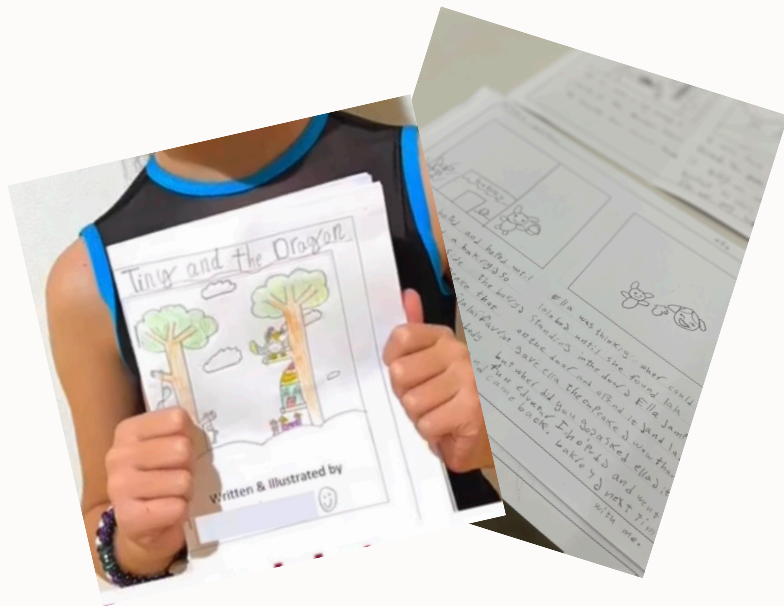
## Workshops | Duration: 1-2 blocks | Year 2 and up

Based on requirements, Kathy offers these workshops in double blocks or together with a general assembly. Worksheet templates will be shared. Please note, activities vary in length and students are not expected to complete the exercise during the workshop.

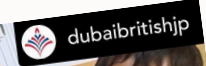
- **Write a toy adventure:** Using story mountain and book templates, the class will map out an original story, before moving on to write and illustrate a picture book either in small groups or individually. Peer review will be encouraged.
- **Character Formation Exercise:** Students are encouraged to develop a main character for their toy adventure. I will extend my presentation, explaining in more detail how to create an interesting fictional character. Peer review encouraged.
- **Write the perfect Ending :** In the story, Lola, a young toy bunny hops away to embark on an unexpected adventure: If you were Lola, what adventure would you go on? This task can be tied in with a presentation for older year groups, where I will share part of the story and leave it up to students to invent a 'new ending'.



**AUTHOR SPOTTED**  
**CULTIVATING LIFELONG LOVE OF READING**



**#L**  
**BUILDING WRITING**



# 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



“The children not only took a lot from it, but highly enjoyed the experience and felt that it provided a different edge to how they’d typically learn and some exciting new knowledge for them to readily put into practice, from the expert herself.

The students were totally engaged, and we felt that the encouragement of questions aided this.

Because the information you provided was so interesting and useful, we also felt you could provide full morning/afternoon workshops, which would allow for more time for the students to digest the manuscripts and collaborate in groups – as they were really interested in this.

You broke it down brilliantly and with clarity.

Bekki Lee  
Gr 3 Junior School Class Teacher  
NCLS Dubai

“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

“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.

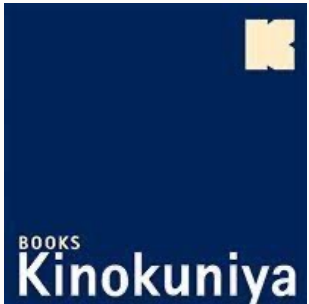
Thanks so much Kathy!"

(October 2022)

Megan Pankhurst  
Das & Head of Writing - Primary



# Events



RGS Guildford Dubai Children's Letter Writing Competition

# Almost there ...

For safety reasons, we ask for at least one member of teaching staff to remain in the classroom throughout each session.

For school visits involving large groups or workshops, there will be an **appearance fee** of AED1,000 per daily visit which will be paid directly to the author. This must be paid in full on the day. An invoice will be provided prior to the event. A receipt can be emailed after the session.

For smaller schools and nurseries, the appearance fee may be reduced or waived in exchange for a minimum order of books.

**Book sales and pre-orders** can be arranged directly or – if preferred - in collaboration with local bookshops.

Please communicate with parents ahead of the visit so children can purchase books. Please ask parents to send in the exact change in an envelope. A payment link is also available.

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

Social Media: Kindly tag the author on your social media posts - Instagram: @hop\_lola\_hop

You can contact Kathy directly via email: [kathy@hoplolahop.com](mailto:kathy@hoplolahop.com) or on 05 629 20691