

ZEINA STARBORN

and the SKY WHALE

School events with award-winning author Hannah Durkan

A qualified teacher, Hannah Durkan was the 2020 winner of the New Writing North Writers' Award (Children's Novel category). *Zeina Starborn and the Sky Whale* is a fast-paced middle grade fantasy which deftly considers humanity's impact on the environment.

'A thrilling tale of intrigue and adventure in the clouds, full of wonderful creatures, mind-boggling gadgets, bravery, kindness and hope' Thomas Taylor, author of *Malamander*

Hannah's events are most suitable for Key Stage 2. She is happy to talk to year groups together.



Key Stage 2 talk/assemblies – 40 minutes plus up to 15 minutes for questions

Event includes a short reading from Zeina Starborn and the Sky Whale followed by an author presentation about how Hannah became an author, her love of reading, the inspirations behind her writing and her top tips for writing incredible fantasy worlds.

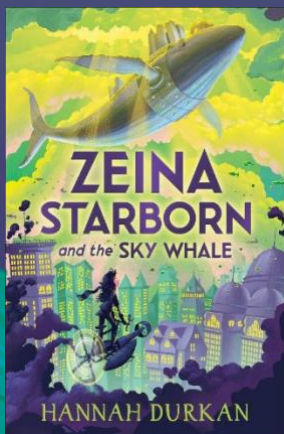
Technical requirements: PowerPoint

Key Stage 2 workshop events – 1 hour

A writing workshop for a class of up to 32 children, focussing on either: building amazing fantasy worlds, creating advertisements for steampunk inventions and gadgets, describing steampunk/fantasy characters.

Hannah is a qualified teacher and therefore can adjust workshops to suit the needs and interests of a class. Please contact her with any specific requests.

Technical requirements: PowerPoint; children to have pencils and paper (possibly glue and scissors depending on workshop)



When Zeina Starborn's dream of exploring the skies becomes a reality, she finds herself in a daring adventure beyond her wildest imagination. Meet explorers, inventors, and mighty sky whales in this richly inventive fantasy story.

Zeina Starborn spends her days dreaming of adventure in the sky and escaping the smog-filled city of Ravenport. So, when she wins the chance to visit the famous Willoughby Whale Hotel - a ginormous structure built on the back of a flying whale - Zeina grabs it. Even clashing with Jackson, spoiled heir to the Willoughby fortune, can't dampen her excitement. But a series of clues makes her question what she's been told about this dazzling world of inventors, explorers and mighty sky whales. Zeina and Jackson must put aside their differences to uncover the secret plot around them as they embark on the journey of a lifetime.

£7.99, paperback, published by Hachette Children's Group

About Hannah

Having studied medicine and gained a PGCE from the University of Leeds, Hannah Durkan now lives in Leeds with her husband and young children. She is a passionate believer in the power of writing to support mental health.

Fees

£150 for one event/assembly plus travel expenses

£200 for a half day plus travel expenses (Usually one assembly followed by one workshop)

£300 day rate plus travel expenses (Maximum three events)

Book sales and signing

Hannah is happy to sign and personalise books and can supply a Dear Parents/Carers sample letter for schools. Authors' livelihoods depend on book sales, so a local bookshop should be contacted to arrange books for the event.

For more information, or to book an event, please contact: hannahlouisedurkan@gmail.com

 @DurkanHannah

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www.hannahdurkan.com