

Testimonials

Helen Keane

Assistant Head Teacher and English Lead at Westbrook Primary School

I first discovered Zoe Antoniades as an author through the 'Get Hounslow Reading Project' set up by Hounslow council to inspire Reading for Pleasure across Primary Schools. Zoe Antoniades spoke to us as a key speaker during one of our training sessions touching on this subject. She was so positive and thought provoking about the importance of pleasure for reading for the children of Hounslow, I knew I had to ask her to come and share her stories with the children of Westbrook. Additionally, with Zoe Antoniades previously being a primary teacher and working in Hounslow she was fully sympathetic to the challenges we face to promote the importance of reading on a daily basis; which was a very important factor for me.

Zoe Antoniades came to visit Westbrook in January 2023 and we still have children talking about her visit now. The children were enthralled by her amazing stories of 'Cally and Jimmy' and loved the fact that they could relate and make links with the characters, plot lines and themselves. She conducted an assembly with our Year 2 and Year 3 children, who were hooked from the moment it began. Zoe Antoniades used amazing interactive resources with the children and even read an extract from her book in a very enthusiastic and capturing manner. Zoe Antoniades also conducted three writing workshops with our Year 2 children focusing on creating their own 'Cally and Jimmy' story. Zoe Antoniades inspired some of our children who did not like writing, to write; it was the next day these children came into school with stories written by themselves at home about 'Cally and Jimmy!' They were so excited to show their teachers. Due to Zoe Antoniades' visit, many pupils in Year 3 began to read again after purchasing her books. One parent informed me how 'She found her daughter one night under her covers reading the 'Cally and Jimmy' books by torch light when she should have been asleep!'

Zoe Antoniades is coming to visit our school again in March 2024 to help us celebrate World Book Day. I am so looking forward to telling the children as I know they will be very excited. She is a fantastic author who helped us transfer the love and importance of reading to some children who would never even pick up a book!

Emma O'Neill

Y2 Teacher and English Lead at Smallberry Green Primary School

Zoe has been visiting Smallberry Green for many years and we were delighted that she officially became our Patron of Reading in 2022. Children across the school adore Zoe's author visits and are always excited to hear about the adventures of Cally and Jimmy, who have become beloved characters at Smallberry. Zoe's sessions are engaging and generate such excitement amongst all year groups. Children are enthralled by her books and have described them as hilarious and exciting. They love to hear Zoe read and particularly love hearing her do the voice of Cally and Jimmy's Yiayia, so much so that many children requested to listen to Cally and Jimmy's stories on audible after Zoe's visit.

Zoe's enthusiasm and passion for reading have had a lasting impact on the children in our school and have truly sparked a love of reading. One year 4 child spoke about how her assembly impacted him-
" Zoe told us in her assembly that reading takes you on an adventure into different worlds. Now I know you can't be bored when you're reading. She made reading seem magic."

Zoe has a lovely, warm manner with the children and listens and responds to their questions with such interest and enthusiasm. Zoe is a joy to work with. She is incredibly generous with her time and is always keen to support develop a love of reading across the school in any way she can.

Claire Zahra

Year 6 Teacher, Nishkam School West London

Zoe has sparked a passion for reading and writing among pupils at Nishkam. Having the opportunity to meet such an inspiring author is a memory that the children will not forget. They learned so much from her writing session, where she demonstrated how to effectively use a story mountain. The impact was clear in the quality of writing produced by the children. Her books are found in all of our book corners and the children are always asking for more. We look forward to welcoming her back this year!

Gemma Bellfield

Y3 Teacher, Hounslow Town Primary School

Zoe is a refreshing and relatable author who has inspired and encouraged children to read in our school. She has captivated and engaged them through visits and as a result, Cally and Jimmy is obsessed over in all of our reading corners.

Imogen McKeigue

Osterley Education

I have had the pleasure of working with Zoe Antoniadis a couple of times and each time has been a complete joy. Zoe ran a creative writing workshop with 20 of our students, based around her Cally and Jimmy books, and she had all 20 children mesmerised! The fact that Zoe is a teacher as well as an author really shows and the children that she worked with found her inspiring and great fun. She ran a magical reading session, followed by a question-and-answer session and then she helped them to plan and write their own Cally and Jimmy stories.

Zoe has also judged a creative writing competition for us and we were so impressed with the time and care that she took over looking through the entries and giving thoughtful and encouraging feedback to our budding authors! The prize for the competition was a bundle of signed book by Zoe and this was a great incentive for the children –everyone was keen to win the signed books!

We have a legion of devoted Cally and Jimmy fans here at Osterley Education! I would highly recommend an author visit with Zoe Antoniadis – she is both a talented author and teacher and has inspired many of our pupils.

Jenny Griffiths

Librarian, Ravenscourt Park Preparatory School

Zoe's visit to our school was such a hit that we sold out of every single book available that day with requests for more copies post the session, and the children very much continue to enjoy both the Cally and Jimmy series and Zoe's collections of short stories in our library. I booked Zoe instantly after seeing her on the programme at Chiswick Book Festival, and she kindly adapted her talk to suit our international theme for all events that particular week at school (interweaving her Greek heritage). Zoe's enthusiasm for the books that she has created and her love of teaching children the art of writing stories shone through in the session. The children and staff were totally captivated, and the visit was a hit! The Cally and Jimmy series are books which our children see themselves in, which is utterly invaluable. They love the books, and Zoe

Andreas Loizou

CEO and Founder of the Margate Bookie

Zoe has appeared many times at the Margate Bookie and has always been super-popular with the local audiences. She really connects with the children in a magical way. I highly recommend her to anyone who's running children's events.

Suzy Lines

Partnerships and Collaboration Manager, Margate Bookie

suzy@margatebookie.com

Zoe was a wonderful addition to our Children's Festival programme at Margate Bookie 2023. Seeing 30 little faces spellbound by Zoe (and Cally and Jimmy!) showed the power of storytelling. Zoe's session highlighted the value of having authors bring their books to life in front of an audience who will no doubt treasure the experience.

Sam Gayton

Margate Bookie colleague and children's author

It's clear that Zoe has a background in education - she can comfortably interact with both small and large groups. Her sessions are also excellently structured, with a variety of interactive and presentational elements. She is the Bookie's go-to author when organising visits with hesitant schools who haven't had visits for a while (or ever).

Torin Douglas

Director of the Chiswick Book Festival

Zoe Antoniadis is a firm favourite at the Chiswick Book Festival. She has performed here several times, in front of both children's and adult audiences, and her enthusiasm for her characters Cally & Jimmy is engaging and infectious. She is a regular performer in schools and promotes her events and the Festival very effectively on social media, helping boost our children's audiences.

Lucy Chambers

Former Children's Events Coordinator, Chiswick Book Festival and CILIP SLG committee

I second what Torin has said.

Your sessions for CBF are very popular and well planned. I always enjoyed working with you when I was Children's Events Coordinator. You have been a mainstay of the children's events at the Chiswick Book Festival for years and are an inspirational speaker, sharing your enthusiasm for your great stories.

Jennifer Cox

Librarian at Osterley Library

jennifer.cox@hounslow.gov.uk

Zoe has visited the library on several occasions and each visit has been a very positive experience. The sessions varied from creative writing to discussing her own books, all being inspiring and stimulating. All the children were very excited to meet a real-life author with some children even inspired to start writing their own stories.

The Mall School - 185 Hampton Road, Twickenham TW2 5NQ

Our Visit from Zoe Antoniades

On Wednesday 10th May, an author called Zoe Antoniades came to tell us all about her books. The whole of Year 4 went up to the library and listened to her talk. Year 5 and 6 also had a talk with Ms Antoniades during the morning.



Zoe has written a collection of short stories: *The Invincible Voices* series. The stories are unique because they are actually written by children, but in collaboration with her. She runs writing clubs, and one of the boys in Year 6, Adam Hakiem, goes to the club, and has stories featured in the books!

Zoe helped us to understand



the structure of a story, and the importance of planning it sensibly. She introduced us to the idea of a Story Mountain (which Ms Lawrence often tells us about), and Aristotle's Story Arc (which was new to us).



We learnt a lot from this session, and enjoyed hearing a story from one of the books. Zoe left us a few of her books and they are currently the most popular books in both Year 4 and 5.

By Oliver Pryce and
Oli Lenox-Smith (4L)