



## Hong Kong International Young Readers Festival 2018 Schools Programme

Dear teachers and librarians,

The **Hong Kong International Young Readers Festival 2018** will be held from 5 to 16 March and we are very happy to share our line-up of authors who will be participating in our Schools Programme.

The Schools Programme has been an essential part of the Young Readers Festival since its inception. Every year, we bring Festival authors to schools for talks and workshops, creating unique opportunities for young people to meet with the writers they love. In 2016/17 we hosted over a hundred sessions to reach over 8,000 students, which is a great increase showing the growth of our Schools Programme over the years.

We strongly believe that literature should be a vital component of every child's education regardless of his or her background and reading ability. By connecting excellent writers with young readers, we hope to promote higher levels of literacy in Hong Kong and to nurture a generation of outward-looking, globally engaged citizens.

This year's line-up features a series of award-winning and bestselling authors from Hong Kong and overseas, including Kate De Goldi, Gus Gordon, Ritu Hemnani, Erin Entrada Kelly, Kenneth Oppel, Blair Reeve, Jason Reynolds, Aisha Saeed and Holly Thompson.

In order to ensure that as many students as possible are able to benefit from our Schools Programme, we have reduced ticket costs and introduced a pricing cap. Don't forget that **if you are from a government or aided school you are eligible to apply for our School Subsidy Scheme**. Ticketing information is summarised on page 16.

Please read on for more information about our authors, their availability, as well as the talks and workshops available. Should you have any questions about the Schools Programme, please contact me at [phillipa.milne@festival.org.hk](mailto:phillipa.milne@festival.org.hk) or 2877 9797. Thank you!

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Phillipa Milne".

Phillipa Milne  
Festival Director



## Authors

### Kate De Goldi

Kate De Goldi writes fiction for all ages. She has been the recipient of the Katherine Mansfield Short Story Award and twice winner of New Zealand Post Children's Book of the Year. Her novel, *The Ten PM Question*, won the Corine International Book Prize in 2011 and has been translated into many languages. Her most recent novel, *From the Cutting Room of Barney Kettle*, won the Esther Glen Award in 2015 and is also published internationally. In 2016 Kate co-edited *Annual*, (with Susan Paris) a literary miscellany for 9-12 year olds. *Annual 2* is currently underway. Kate reviews children's books on Radio New Zealand and is a frequent presenter and interviewer at literature festivals.



### Gus Gordon

Gus Gordon is an internationally acclaimed illustrator and author. He has illustrated and written over 80 books for children. His illustrations are known for their loose and energetic line work, mixed media and humour. His writing is always anthropomorphic. He attributes this to his love of Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in The Willows*.

Gus's first picture book, *Wendy*, was a Notable Book in the 2010 Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Picture Book of the Year Awards. His second picture book, *Herman and Rosie*, now published in twelve countries, has been internationally acclaimed and awarded.



In 2016 and 2017, Gus was nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, which is the world's largest award for children's and young adult literature.



## Ritu Hemnani



Ritu Hemnani is a former ESF student and Secondary School teacher who is ethnically Indian, holds a British passport and calls Hong Kong home. Her short stories and articles have been published in the *Asian Literary Review*, *Reader's Digest* and *Expat Living Magazine*. *Gope and Meera – A Migration Story* is her first published children's book. Ritu is a committed writing ambassador for the Home of Loving Faithfulness, which serves the mentally and physically disabled of Hong Kong. When not writing, teaching or voice acting for audio books or educational toys, Ritu delights in poetry, theatre and is a busy wife and mother to three extraordinary kids!

## Erin Entrada Kelly



Erin Entrada Kelly has received numerous awards for her work, including the Asian Pacific American Library Association Award for Children's Literature, the Golden Kite Honor Award, and the 2015 SIBA Best Book of the South. Common themes of her novels include friendship, family, the power of imagination, and the immigrant experience. Her debut novel, *Blackbird Fly*, was named one of the best books of the year by *Kirkus*, *School Library Journal* and the Center for Multicultural Literature. Her second novel, *The Land of Forgotten Girls*, also appeared on several best-of lists and was a NAIBA Book of the Year finalist and a nominee for the Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award. Erin's third novel, *Hello, Universe*, was released in March 2017, and has received starred reviews from *Publisher's*

*Weekly*, *Kirkus*, *School Library Journal*, *Booklist* and *Shelf Awareness*. Her fourth book, *You Go First*, will release in April 2018.



## Kenneth Oppel

Kenneth Oppel is an award-winning author for young readers. His *Silverwing trilogy* has sold over a million copies worldwide, and been adapted as an animated TV series and stage play. *Airborn* was winner of a Michael L Printz Honor Book Award, and the Canadian Governor General's Award for Children's Literature; its sequel, *Skybreaker*, was a New York Times bestseller and was named Children's Novel of the Year by the London Times.

He is also the author of *Half Brother*, which has won both the Canadian Library Association's Book of the Year for Children Award as well as their Young Adult Book Award - — the first time in the awards' history the same title has won both honours. His latest books are *The Nest* (which won the 2016 CLA Book of the Year for Children Award) and *Every Hidden Thing*.



Photo credit: Mark Raynes Robert

## Blaire Reeve

New Zealander Blair Reeve has been writing and performing a rhythmic and comical style of performance poetry since 1995. He graduated from Massey University in 2012 and then turned his attention to creative writing. He completed his Masters in 2014, and one year later published his first children's book *Hogart The Hedgehog Turns Nink*. In September 2016 he published his second book for young readers, *Greta von Gerbil & Her Really Large Lexicon*. He performed poetry at the TedXWanchai event in October 2016.





## Jason Reynolds



New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds is the author of the critically acclaimed *When I Was the Greatest*. He is a National Book Award Finalist, a Kirkus Prize winner, a Walter Dean Myers Award winner, an NAACP Image Award Winner and the recipient of multiple Coretta Scott King honours. His work includes the recently published *Long Way Down* and *Miles Morales: Spider Man*, as well as *The Boy in the Black Suit*, *All American Boys* (co-written with Brendan Kiely), *As Brave As You*, the first two books in the Track series, *Ghost* and *Patina*. He is on faculty at Lesley University for the Writing for Young People MFA Programme.

Photo credit: Kia Chenelle

## Aisha Saeed



Aisha Saeed is a former lawyer, educator and a children's author. She is also a founding member of the non-profit We Need Diverse Books™ dedicated to creating a more diverse book world for young people. She is author of the young adult novel *Written in the Stars*, which was listed as a best book of 2015 by Bank Street Books, a 2016 YALSA Quick Pick For Reluctant Readers, and was named one of the top ten books all Young Georgians Should Read 2016. Her next novel is the forthcoming middle-grade novel *Amal Unbound* to be published in 2018 with Penguin/Nancy Paulsen Books.



Hong Kong International  
**Young Readers**  
Festival

## Holly Thompson

Holly Thompson is a longtime resident of Japan and author of the verse novels *Falling into the Dragon's Mouth*, *The Language Inside* and *Orchards*. Her picture books include the lyrical *Twilight Chant*, *One Wave at a Time* and *The Wakame Gatherers*. She edited *Tomo: Friendship Through Fiction—An Anthology of Japan Teen Stories*, a collection of 36 Japan-focused stories, including ten in translation. She writes poetry, fiction and nonfiction for children, teens and adults, and teaches writing in Japan, the U.S. and places in between.





## In-School Talks and Workshops

This is our list of talks and workshops available. Tickets are priced at HK\$50 per student for talks and HK\$100 per student for workshops. If your school is looking for a particular kind of talk or workshop, we are happy to accommodate where possible. For workshops, the maximum capacity of students varies from 20 to 40 depending on the author.

To book a visit, please contact **Jacqueline Leung** via email at [jacqueline.leung@festival.org.hk](mailto:jacqueline.leung@festival.org.hk) or via phone at **2877 9770**.

AUTHOR	DATES AVAILABLE	SESSION
<b>Kate De Goldi</b>	<b>13 – 16 March (Tue – Fri)</b>	<b>MEET KATE DE GOLDI</b> Talk (Ages 9+)  Join celebrated author Kate De Goldi as she introduces us to some of her most colourful characters, including the inimitable movie director Barnaby ( <i>The Cutting Room of Barney Kettle</i> ), worry-prone Frankie ( <i>The 10pm Question</i> ) and Perry, a young girl grappling with her grandmother’s memory loss ( <i>The ACB with Honora Lee</i> ). Kate De Goldi is the recipient of the Katherine Mansfield Short Story Award and twice winner of New Zealand Post Children’s Book of the Year.
<b>Gus Gordon</b>	<b>7 – 10 March (Tue – Sat)</b>	<b>HOW TO MAKE COLLAGES</b> Workshop (Ages 6-12)  Collage is interesting because it’s the only medium that can construct its own narrative or within another! In this workshop, Gus will show examples of the clever way he and other artists use collage to tell stories. He will also conduct a hands-on workshop using collage techniques and lots of beautiful paper. Let’s get messy and have loads of fun!

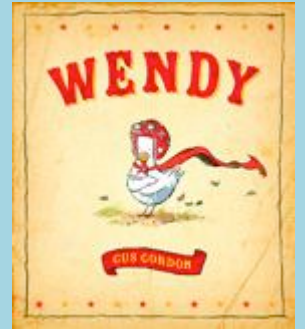




### **WRITING AND ILLUSTRATING PICTURE BOOKS**

Talk (Ages 6-12)

Picture books aren't as simple as they may seem at first glance! Join Gus as he walks students through the process of brainstorming story ideas, sketching roughs, storyboarding, writing to publication. This is an engaging, interactive session for students to learn about the complex relationship between words and pictures and how they work together to tell a story.



### **DRAW WITH GUS!**

Workshop (Ages 6-12)

In this interactive session, Gus will conduct a drawing workshop using techniques and exercises to show students the various aspects of illustration in a simple and effective way. Students will learn many tips and tricks, such as how to draw faces, expressions, heads, bodies and animals. Young illustrators will get busy creating their own work!



### **CREATING STRONG BOOK CHARACTERS**

Talk (Ages 6-12)

All the best books have appealing, memorable characters – funny heroes, scary villains or otherwise! Gus will explore what exactly makes a good character and how to draw one, visiting his book characters and others to demonstrate various character types.







<b>RITU HEMNANI</b>	<b>5 – 7, 9, 12 – 14, 16</b> <b>March</b> <b>(Mon – Wed, Fri)</b>	<b>A TALE OF MIGRATION</b> Talk (Ages 8-11)  History isn't always tucked away in thick bundles of text! In her picture book, <i>Gope and Meera – A Migration Story</i> , Ritu tells a tale of the Partition of India and explores the themes of migration, cultural heritage and resilience in the face of adversity. She will also share her personal writing voyage and her recent discoveries as an author living in Hong Kong.	
		<b>DRAMA WORKSHOP WITH RITU</b> Workshop (Ages 10-12)  This drama workshop is a lively retelling of history and explores themes of migration and cultural awareness. Join Ritu Hemnani, author of <i>Gope and Meera – A Migration Story</i> , in a fun and immersive session of role-play for children to get a glimpse of one of the largest mass migrations in world history – the Partition of India.	
<b>ERIN ENTRADA KELLY</b>	<b>5 – 9</b> <b>March</b> <b>(Mon – Fri)</b>	<b>THE LAND OF FORGOTTEN GIRLS</b> Talk (Ages 9-14)  Erin's books feature main characters that feel complex emotions from being different from their peers in one way or another: culturally, socially, financially. In this fun and engaging talk, Erin touches upon themes of bullying, immigration and empathy, as well as how stories expose students to diverse characters and give hope to any reader who has ever felt like an outsider.	



<b>KENNETH OPPEL</b>	<b>12 – 16 March (Mon – Fri)</b>	<b>WRITING THE SILVERWING TRILOGY</b> Talk (Ages 9-14+)  Kenneth’s Silverwing trilogy has sold over a million copies worldwide and been adapted as an animated TV series and stage play. In this talk, Kenneth will speak about how he wrote the series – bat facts, sound technology, natural history, folklore and exotic locations from around the world.	
		<b>EVERY HIDDEN THING</b> Talk (Ages 9-14+)  Romeo and Juliet meets Indiana Jones in <i>Every Hidden Thing</i> , an epic tale of dinosaur bone hunting, bitter rivalries and romance. In this engaging session, Kenneth takes students back to the Wild West in 1872, the real warring palaeontologists and the “Bone Wars” that inspired his novel.	
		<b>THE APPRENTICESHIP OF VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN</b> Talk (Ages 9-14+)  Explore the fascinating Frankenstein myth with Kenneth and his two novels, <i>This Dark Endeavour</i> and its sequel <i>Such Wicked Intent</i> . Prequels to the classic <i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley, Kenneth’s books follow the extraordinary life and adventures of 16-year-old Victor Frankenstein who would later become a "mad scientist".	

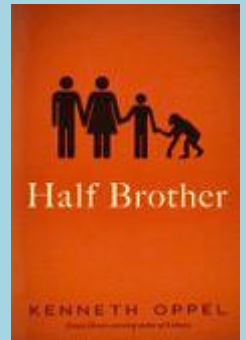


### HALF BROTHER

Talk (Ages 9-14+)

This is the story of teenager Ben Tomlin, whose scientist parents adopt a newborn chimpanzee and raise it as a human baby, to see if chimps are capable of learning human sign language. It isn't long before Ben forms a powerful bond with Zan – but is Zan a lab specimen, or his little brother? In a session interspersed with short readings from the book, Kenneth will talk about the sources of inspiration and his research for this award-winning tale.

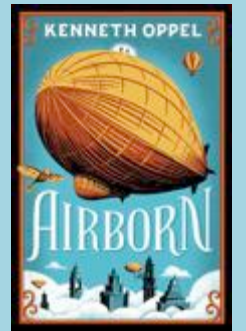
*Half Brother* won the Canadian Library Association's Book of the Year for Children Award and their Young Adult Book Award – the first time in the awards' history the same title has won both honours.



### A LIFE SCRIBBLING

Talk (Ages 9-14+)

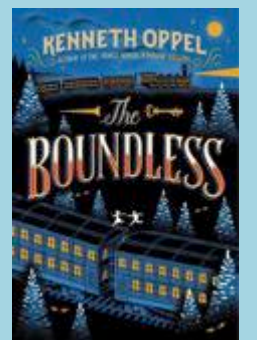
Kenneth got his first book published at 17 and has since authored the bestselling Silverwing series, the Governor-General award-winning *Airborn*, *Half Brother* and *The Boundless*. In this talk, Kenneth goes back to his earliest writings in school, his inspiration and tips for the aspiring writer.



### CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH KENNETH OPPEL

Workshop (Ages 9-14+)

This is a fun workshop that starts with word games before getting to the basics of story creation: brainstorming, plot, character, structure, good guys vs. bad guys, humour, tricks of the trade, revision! Students will get busy with a few short writing exercises, so be prepared to do quite a bit of scribbling!





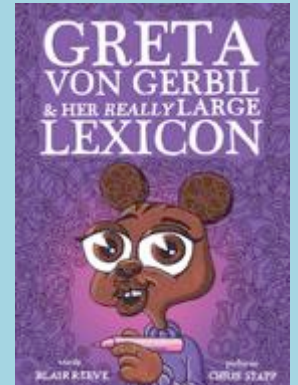
**BLAIR REEVE**

**5 – 9, 12 –  
16 March  
(Mon – Fri)**

**GRETA VON GERBIL & HER REALLY LARGE LEXICON**

Talk/Workshop (Ages 10+)

What's so fun about learning new vocabulary? Find out when Blair Reeve talks about his comical narrative in verse *Greta von Gerbil & Her Really Large Lexicon*! Greta von Gerbil is a tiny little rodent with a really large vocab. When she walks around Rodentville using lots of big words, her fellow townsfolk start to feel threatened. A pair of Chipmunks steals her thesaurus, but instead of destroying it, the local gangsters decide to take revenge. They plan to outsmart Greta by using her thesaurus to make sentences with the biggest words they can find, and a crazy word battle commences.



**HOGART THE HEDGEHOG TURNS NINK**

Talk/Workshop (Ages 6-11)

*Hogart the Hedgehog Turns Nink* is a rhythmic, comical narrative written to be read aloud. Read along with Blair Reeve as his characters come alive with interesting rhymes and voices. Blair will also talk about what inspired him to write his book for kids!



**SLAM POETRY!**

Workshop (Ages 10+)

Learn all about slam poetry and why spoken word poems are so much fun to watch and perform. In this interactive session, Blair will introduce poetic techniques and writing exercises that go towards creating a short performance piece. Students will get to learn how to express themselves through a few vocal exercises and by crafting narratives of their own.



<p><b>JASON REYNOLDS</b></p>	<p><b>7 – 9 March (Wed – Fri)</b></p>	<p><b>LONG WAY DOWN</b> Talk (Ages 12-18)</p> <p>Jason Reynolds was tricked into being a writer. For years his aunt would only give him books for Christmas. He'd force a smile, and when no one was looking, Jason would toss that year's "bad gift" on the shelf until the sixth grade, when he discovered poetry. It was then that his world was opened, and he went back and started tearing through all the dusty, stiffened books, suddenly grateful for every page.</p> <p>Now the author of four <i>New York Times</i> bestsellers and co-author of another two, Jason is a National Book Award Finalist and an awardee of multiple awards. Hear him speak about his writing journey and how he got there in this inspiring session.</p> 
<p><b>AISHA SAEED</b></p>	<p><b>12 – 14 March (Mon – Wed)</b></p>	<p><b>WRITTEN IN THE STARS</b> Talk (Ages 12-18)</p> <p>This talk is an entertaining and reflective session about cultural traditions, gender equality and Pakistan based on Aisha's novel, <i>Written in the Stars</i>. Aisha explores the difficult phenomenon of arranged marriages, negotiations between tradition and strongly held beliefs and family relationships.</p> 
<p><b>HOLLY THOMPSON</b></p>	<p><b>5 – 9 March (Mon – Fri)</b></p>	<p><b>POEM FEST!</b> Talk/workshop (Ages 5-9)</p> <p>This is a fun introduction to poems and poem writing for young writers. Holly will use short example poems both serious and silly as prompts for students to generate their own works.</p>



### **DESCRIBING THINGS WITH POETRY**

Talk/Workshop (Ages 10-18)

After reading scenes written in poetry, students will learn to write poetry about their immediate environments combined with the stories they inspire. This is based on Holly's [project of notice poems](#), in which she writes a poem a day about Kamakura, the Japanese town where her verse novel *Falling Into the Dragon's Mouth* is based.



### **FROM FACT TO FICTION**

Talk/Workshop (Ages 10-18)

How do you generate stories from observation and real life experience? Join Holly as she describes the process behind creating compelling narratives by recounting actual events. Students are prompted into crafting a plot outline and drafting a scene of one plot point.

### **TELLING YOUR STORIES IN VERSE**

Talk/Workshop (Ages 10-18)

What is a verse novel? This is a fun and informative session for students of all writing levels and backgrounds! Holly will introduce the different approaches to writing novels in verse and demonstrate the narrative tools and techniques that can be used when crafting story scenes in verse.

### **PRESS CONFERENCE**

Workshop (Ages 10-18)

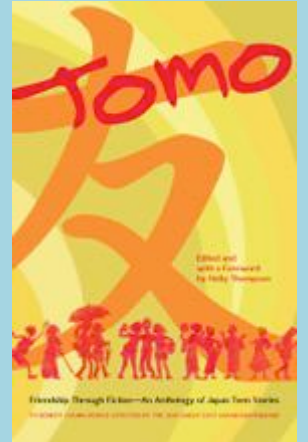
Summon your inner journalist...Students need to do background research on author Holly Thompson prior to her visit, and prepare an interview and follow-up questions. Students will then compile their notes into a news article.



## **TOMO: FRIENDSHIP THROUGH FICTION – BACKGROUND AND STORIES**

Talk/Workshop (Ages 10-18)

*Tomo* is a rich anthology of 36 short stories connected to Japan. In this session, Holly will explain the cultural context and reasons for creating *Tomo*. She will also share updates on Japan since the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.





## Pricing information

Tickets are priced at HK\$50 per student for talks and HK\$100 per student for workshops.

For non-subsidised schools, the price per session is capped at a maximum of HK\$7,500 (i.e. you will not be charged more than HK\$7,500 regardless of the number of students participating).

For government and aided schools, the price per session is subsidised by up to 70%. Please complete the School Subsidy Scheme application and submit it along with your booking form.

	TALK	WORKSHOP
PRICE PER STUDENT (HK\$)	50	100
STUDENT CAPACITY	N/A	20-40 depending on workshop







## Hong Kong International Young Readers Festival 2018

### Application for School Subsidy Scheme

All government and aided schools are eligible for the School Subsidy Scheme. The scheme serves to encourage the participation of government and aided schools committed to promoting English and nurturing a love of reading in our Schools Programme. The Festival reserves the right of final decision for the amount of subsidy.

School name: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

School type:

1.  Secondary School       Primary School  
2.  Aided                       Government       Direct Subsidy

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- How did you hear about the Festival and our Schools Programme?  
 Festival website       Friends/Teachers       Promotional materials  
 Newspapers       E-newsletters       Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- At your school, how many subjects use English as a medium of instruction?  
\_\_\_\_\_ out of a total of \_\_\_\_\_
- Is English a foreign language for most of your students?       Yes                       No
- What is the approximate pass rate of your students in English language exams (e.g. HKDSE, TSA, GCSE etc.)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Does your school organise or participate in any activities/programmes that promote the learning and use of English (e.g. book clubs, creative writing clubs etc.)?  
 Yes                       No  
If yes, please elaborate: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for showing interest in our Schools Programme!

Please send us the completed form via **fax at (852) 2153 9260** or via **email at [jacqueline.leung@festival.org.hk](mailto:jacqueline.leung@festival.org.hk)**. The result of this application will be advised together with the booking status.