



About the author:

Emma Beswetherick is the mother of two young children and wanted to write exciting, inspirational and enabling adventure stories to share with her daughter. Emma is a publisher at Little, Brown and lives in London with her family and two ragdoll cats – the inspiration for Thunder the cat.

About the series:

Three ordinary friends, saving the world through their extraordinary adventures...

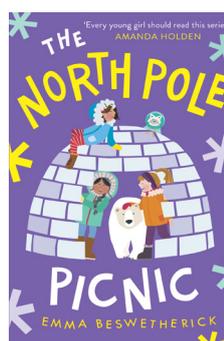
THE PLAYDATE ADVENTURES is a series of chapter books aimed at 5-8-year olds. In each story we join three best friends and their cat Thunder on a playdate, where the magic of their imaginations makes their pretend adventure come to life. The adventures take them on unforgettable journeys that teach them not only about the value of friendship, but also about the environmental issues facing our planet today.



With each story covering a different theme – from litter on our streets to climate change, from plastic in the oceans to deforestation – and told in an engaging and exciting way, this brand-new children’s series serves to entertain and also to educate. The books tie in brilliantly with the environmental topics covered by both the KS1 and KS2 curriculums.



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What Emma is available for:

Sessions can be offered in person or remotely. Emma has experience using lots of different webcast platforms and is happy to use whichever one works best for the school. For online events Emma will use a PowerPoint presentation and interact with the class through questions in the chat box as well as on screen. We'll also offer to supply POS material, like bookmarks, on request.

1. Creative writing workshops:

These lessons can last from 45 mins to an hour, depending on lesson time, and are divided into three parts: 1) Introduction from Emma, short reading, an explanation of the task 2) Children work together to fill in their story grids 3) Children present their ideas back to the class, with feedback from Emma.



- **Planning adventure stories** – Emma will talk about the key components of story planning and, in small groups, encourage children to fill in story plans that can be turned into adventure stories with a strong environmental message. *NB: This lesson can be geared towards different age groups (Years 2-6)*
- **Setting and atmosphere** – Emma will talk about the importance of setting and atmosphere and brainstorm writing techniques that can be used to create it. She will ask the children to imagine a setting for their own stories, before helping them fill out a planning grid that can later be turned into their own creative writing pieces. *NB: This is a more advanced lesson for older year groups (KS2 – Years 4-6)*
- **Character development** – Emma will talk about the importance of characters in stories and what techniques can be used to bring different characters to life. She will work with the children to create their own character grids based on two to three different characters, which can later be turned into their own pieces of creative writing. *NB: This is a more advanced lesson for older year groups (KS2 – Years 4-6)*



- **Cliff-hanger endings** – Emma will talk about the value of cliff-hangers in fiction and brainstorm techniques that can be used to create them. She will work with the children to create their own cliff-hanger story grids that can later be turned into their own pieces of creative writing. *NB: This is a more advanced lesson for older year groups (KS2 – Years 4-6)*

2. Full school or year group assemblies on:

- **How I Became a Writer (all years)** – Emma will talk about her own experiences in publishing and the process of getting published herself. She'll talk through where her ideas come from, the editorial process and the excitement of working with an illustrator. She'll also read from one of her books and end the session with a Q&A.
- **How a Book Becomes a Book (all years)** – Emma has worked in publishing her whole career so comes to this assembly wearing her editor's and author's hats. This is an interactive session where children will be invited to the front of the assembly hall to play the roles of the different publishing departments as they learn the process of how a book becomes a book. Emma will end the session with a Q&A.



NB: Both assemblies are ideal for World Book Day and last approximately 45 mins.

3. Meet the author:

- Readings and Q&As with younger children (perfect for reception and Year 1).

4. The stories can be read as class texts to tie into the following topics:

- **KS1 topics:**
 - o What is a Polar habitat? (*The North Pole Picnic*)



- o What is a forest habitat? (*The Giant Conker*)
- o What is an ocean habitat? (*The Magic Ocean Slide*)
- o What should I do with my rubbish? (*The Wishing Star*)

- **KS2 topics:**

- o Sustainability and plastics (*The Wishing Star* and other titles)
- o Humans and the environment (*The Wishing Star* and other titles)
- o Recycling (*The Wishing Star*)
- o Climate change (*The North Pole Picnic*)
- o Habitats and adaptation (*The North Pole Picnic*)
- o The ocean and the seaside (*The Magic Ocean Slide*)
- o Plastic pollution (*The Magic Ocean Slide*)
- o Deforestation (*The Giant Conker*)



- **Awareness Days (Dates for 2021):**

- o World Book Day: 4th March (All books)
- o International Women's Day: 8th March (All books)
- o Global Recycling Day: 18th March (*The Wishing Star, The North Pole Picnic*)
- o National Pet Awareness Month: April (All books)
- o Earth Day: 22nd April (*The Wishing Star* - and all books if covering different environmental themes)
- o National Space Day: 1st May (*The Wishing Star*)
- o Walk to School Week: 17th May (*The Wishing Star*)
- o World Environment Day: 5th June (All books)
- o World Oceans Day: 8th June (*The Magic Ocean Slide*)
- o Children's Art Week: 29th June (*The Wishing Star*)
- o International Day of Friendship: 30th July (All books)
- o World Cat Day - August (All books)
- o World Space Week: 4th October (*The Wishing Star*)
- o International Astronomy Day: 5th October (*The Wishing Star*)
- o International Day of the Girl: 11th October (All books)
- o Friendship Friday: 19th November (All books)



What teachers have said:

- ‘Emma captured the children’s imagination and was able to involve and engage her audience superbly. Emma asked questions, challenged their ideas and inspired them to be more creative – they were desperate to write by the end of it.’ - **Nick Styles, Headteacher at Riccall Primary School**
- ‘Emma led engaging and inspirational sessions for our children. Her assembly on “how a book becomes a book” was both interactive and informative.’ - **Dan Cadman, Deputy Headteacher at St Mary’s CE Primary School**
- ‘Emma really captured the imagination of the children with a fantastic session about developing settings and atmosphere in a piece of writing, which are two key objectives we are working towards. The plans the children produced during the session were so creative and it has inspired the children in their writing.’ - **Andrew Hill, Junior School Head, Radnor House**



About each book:

THE WISHING STAR

A story that challenges children to look closely at a wide range of environmental issues and encourages them to make better choices about how they live.

It’s the start of a new term and Katy can’t wait to have her two best friends over for a playdate. Katy, Cassie and Zia find themselves transported into outer space when their rocket made out of recycled waste magically becomes life-sized. With the help of Katy’s cat Thunder, the friends navigate their way to the Wishing Star. But as they prepare to make their own wishes, they discover they have a greater mission: TO SAVE PLANET EARTH.



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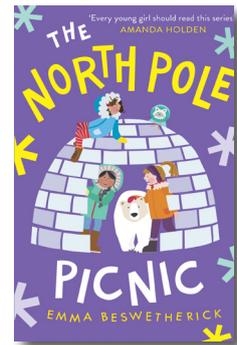


ROCK THE BOAT

THE NORTH POLE PICNIC

A story that teaches children about the importance of habitats and the issues surrounding climate change, specifically melting ice caps.

Winter has arrived, and the girls decide to cosy up with a picnic in the North Pole. But to their surprise the animals give them a frosty reception. Before they can enjoy snowflake-shaped sandwiches, shimmering doughnuts and mountains of ice cream, they must first win the trust of the Arctic Queen and discover why the North Pole is melting.



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THE MAGIC OCEAN SLIDE

A story that educates children about the problems surrounding plastic in our oceans.

On the hottest day of the year, the friends imagine a wonderful waterslide coming out of Katy's bedroom window. The slide takes them on a super-slippery adventure like no other, where they meet a host of sea creatures, including a dolphin who shows them why the ocean is in trouble. Now the friends and Thunder must use all their brainpower to help put things right...



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THE GIANT CONKER

A story that explores the importance of forests and the issues surrounding deforestation.

The friends have been transported to an enchanted forest, where the biggest conker in the world grows at the top of the tallest tree. But as they venture deeper into the forest, the trio soon realise something isn't right. The trees around them are dying - and where are all the animals? Powerful magic is robbing the forest of all its goodness. Can they work out how to stop the destruction before it's too late?



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