

Sophia Bennett

Award-winning author for teens and 9-12s.
School speaker about inspiration, creativity and confidence.
“Warming up the talent in every watching child”

School visits and workshops 2017:

- Author talk
- Coding workshop
- Creative writing masterclass
- History and research
- Winning Like a Girl



Bringing reading and writing to life

Since I was first published in 2009, I have won the Times/Chicken House award and the RONA Romantic Novel of the Year award, and been shortlisted for the Booktrust Best Book award. My books have been sold around the world and I have readers in over 20 countries. I also teach creative writing at City University.

An experienced speaker before I started writing, I come to inspire students from Y6 to Y13 to unlock their creativity. With lively, interactive talks and workshops to get them writing, I address any group size from 4 to 400.

Full-day visits include 3-5 events and signings, and cost £400 + travel. Schools may club together to share the cost of a day. Skype events cost £150.

SOPHIA BENNETT

The room was drained of colour but she was full of it,
her hands spoke louder than her words,
every movement sewing together fabric,
fabric representing days of her life,

Some silky and smooth whilst others rough
and frayed,
yet they all formed a blanket of hope and
success,
that blanket warming up the talent in every
watching child.

Rida, Westcliff
High School for Girls



Inspiring students

I write stories for teens about reaching for their dreams and overcoming big obstacles in the process. Their story reflects mine in becoming a writer. My author talk includes:

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- **My story: finding success through persistence and hard work**
- Where my artistic inspiration comes from
- **Being creative as a career**
- How a writer works, and how a book is made

Workshops 2017:

Y6-7 **Break the code!** Based on *The Castle* – fire up your imagination with codes, encryption and secret messages. Discover a code that was used for 300 years. First, break it; then, use it.

Y6-12 **Creative writing masterclasses.** Based on my years of teaching, learn tips and tricks on building characters, creating sparkling dialogue, getting off to a flying start, and writing a story starting with a single word.

Y8-10 **History and research.** Based on *Following Ophelia*, my new book set in the Victorian art world of the Pre-Raphaelites – look at amazing facts from Victorian history and different research techniques. Plan how to find hidden nuggets of research for your own stories.

Y7-10 **Winning Like a Girl.** Teenage girls often don't look as if they need any assistance with confidence. As a successful author, I probably don't look like it either, but we all do. This talk for girls in KS3 is an honest account of how challenging it is to be a successful woman, even in the 21st century. It looks at science, history, role models, and calls to action:

- Don't be a perfectionist if it holds you back
- Take risks
- Define your own image of success
- Dare to be yourself

"She inspired me to be more confident about myself. I tried my power word when I needed it and it really worked."

Year 10 student, Elmgreen School, London



Book reviews

'Sophia Bennett is the queen of teen dreams' Amanda Craig, *The Times*

Threads

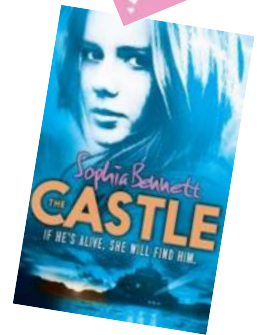
'A vibrant and thought-provoking story for fashion-conscious girls of 11+. ...This is not just a great book, it's pure gold.' – Lovereading4kids

'A treat... elegant and funny and has real narrative verve.' – David Almond
Winner of The Times/Chicken House Children's Fiction Award, 2009; longlisted for the Branford Boase award



The Castle

'One of the best Young Adult books of 2014' Martin Chilton, *The Telegraph*
'... a fast-paced and richly imagined adventure' Julia Eccleshare, Lovereading4kids



You Don't Know Me

'... one of the best YA contemporary stories I've read in years, exploring media manipulation, cyber-bullying, body image, romance, friendship, making choices, and doing it all with incredible heart and a wonderful cast of characters.' *The Bookbag*



The Look

'blisteringly good' Lovereading4kids
'one word: BRILLIANT' Cathy Cassidy
'Ultimately what makes it so impressive is that a gripping story is also full of the messages young adults need in a superficial world.' *Daily Telegraph*, Top 10 YA



Love Song

'Love Song is an intelligent and thoughtful read which handles the all-consuming emotion of a first crush rather beautifully.' Winner of the RoNA Romantic Novel of the Year Award 2017



Following Ophelia

'A vivid portrait of Pre-Raphaelite glamour and the perils of beauty, desire and independence.' Anna McKerron, author and children's book review editor for Booktrust





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Sophia Bennett

“Thank you so much for a fabulous day yesterday. When I asked the children you worked with for a few words to describe it to put in the newsletter they were unanimous; "awesome," "inspiring" and "she was so cool"! (Librarian, Bishops Stortford)

‘Dear Sophia Bennett,
Wow! That was an amazing visit, thank you so much. My favourite part of it was when you got us to write our own story and you gave us tips. Thank you so much, you have really inspired me.’ (Year 7 student, Kent)

+ The Threads Trilogy
The Look
You Don't Know Me
The Castle
Love Song
Following Ophelia
Unveiling Venus

Member of the Society of Authors, and CWISL: Children's Writers and Illustrators in South London

www.sophiabennett.com