



MARIE BASTING

Author and Creative Practitioner

mariebasting.com | [@riewriting](https://twitter.com/riewriting) | riewriting@gmail.com



AUTHOR VISITS WITH MARIE BASTING

Marie Basting writes funny fiction for children. Her debut novel, *Princess BMX*, was listed by the Guardian and BookTrust in their best new books category and was praised by Gender Collect as one of the best books out there for smashing stereotypes. In 2023 *My Family and Other Romans* won a *Books For Topics* award for best KS2 curriculum support. A former Associate Lecturer at Manchester Met University, Marie has taught creative writing from foundation through to MFA level and has extensive experience of creative schools outreach delivery. Her school and festival events have inspired thousands of children to read and write for pleasure.

Marie offers fun interactive author talks and creative writing workshops designed to build resilience and confidence. A brief taster is provided below but for full details please visit mariebasting.com/school-visits-and-speaking/



MIXED-UP MYTHOLOGY! A FUN INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION

Medusa the Gorgon has lost her head and doesn't know where to find it. Join Silvia, the school-girl Demigoddess from Hexham, on her quest to recover it:

- Discover the monsters and myths that inspired Silvia's quest and learn how author Marie Basting breathed new magic into these classic tales.
- Search for the truth in Marie's mythic Greek and Roman facts as we play the 'Truth or Porky Pie' game.
- Allow misrule to rule as we learn all about the festival of Saturnalia (the Roman Christmas) and agree our own manifesto for mischief.

ROME PLAY! A FUN INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION

How do you take history and myth and mix it up with live action role play (LARP) to create a hilarious timeslip adventure? Marie Basting will reveal all:

- See exclusive photos of Marie's bad haircuts as you learn about her writing journey;
- Explore Hadrian's wall and find out where you can visit Marie's favourite Roman toilet;
- Test your knowledge of bizarre and disgusting Roman facts;
- Discover your inner LARP warrior as you join battle of the war cries;
- And find out just how easy creative writing can be when you defy the limits others put on you, fire your imagination and mix things up!



#BEMORE BMX ASSEMBLY

With themes of resilience, smashing stereotypes and developing a positive attitude, this assembly presentation will leave children rearing to defy the limits others place on them and #BeMoreBMX. A fun interactive event that includes insights into Marie's writing journey, awe inspiring BMX video clips, a visit to *Princess School* and lots of laughs!

"Marie's events are funny, engaging and informative, perfectly pitched at primary school children to both entertain and inform. I'd wholeheartedly recommend her events to inspire creativity, smash down stereotypes and build historical knowledge, all while having fun!" Wonderland Bookshop, Retford

"It was brilliant and I would highly recommend it to all schools. Marie is fabulous!"

Tami Wylie, Teacher, Holy Cross Primary School, Oldham

"We LOVED it! The inspirational advice, breathtaking videos, fun quiz...the list goes on."

Faye Cooper, Teacher, Adlington Primary School

"Completely bonkers but a consummate professional, not a bad mix in my book."

Manchester Children's Book Festival





Creative Writing Workshops and Crafts with Marie Basting



Mixed-up Mythology!

Auntie Medusa and Me provides a unique take on classical mythology. Inspired by the quirky characters in this timeslip adventure, you'll work with author Marie Basting to create your own mixed-up mythological creature. You'll then draw them on a scroll and tell us some key facts about them in the form of a Wanted poster before using the information on the scroll to write the opening to your own mythic story!

Time Travellers Are Us - Create your Own Timeslip Adventure

With an emphasis on descriptive writing, children will be invited to travel back in time to create their own timeslip story. Through fun exercises, Marie will fire imaginations and equip children with the tools to ensure their stories have all the ingredients of a classic fantasy adventure. (Schools will receive additional plotting and editing resources.)

Writing Inspirations - Extended Q&A with Tips and Challenges

For schools who wish to engage larger groups in creative writing activities, Marie offers an extended creative writing and publishing question and answer session. After encouraging children to ask questions about reading, writing and publishing, Marie will talk more about her own writing inspirations and how story ideas and creativity are there for the taking if we just open our eyes and ears and ignore self-doubt. She'll then set a writing challenge based on one of her short stories. She'll also give the group some writing tips and leave them with a range of resources to help complete their story back in the classroom.

Crafts - Marie can offer a range of interactive craft activities

Mythical Mosaic Workshop

Join author Marie Basting in a fun creative session where you'll create your own Roman style mosaic. We'll start with a short reading from Marie's hilarious timeslip adventure, Auntie Medusa and Me, talk a little about how Roman's decorated their homes and then create our own mosaics.

(Involves scissors and glue so younger children may need parental supervision. An option to use a printed template and colouring pencils is available.)

Mixed-Up Mythology!

Inspired by the quirky characters in Auntie Medusa And Me, you'll work with author Marie Basting to create your own mixed-up mythological creature. You'll then draw and colour them on a scroll and tell us some key facts about them.

Make Your Own Laurel Wreath

Wreaths made out of laurel were worn by both the ancient Greeks and Romans as a symbol of triumph or victory. And more recently, of course, they were worn by Silvia, the school girl demi-god, on the cover of Auntie Medusa and Me. Follow Silvia's lead and make your very own laurel crown. (Involves scissors and glue so younger children may need parental supervision.)

For more info visit mariebasting.com or email riewriting@gmail.com

