

DEBORAH ABELA Dip Teach, BA (Comm)

Children's Author, Teacher

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After completing a teaching degree, Deb went to Africa where she was caught in a desert sandstorm, harassed by monkeys and thrown in jail...twice! She produced and wrote a national kids' TV show before leaving to write 26 books for children. Her crankiness about climate change led to the novels, *Grimsdon*, *New City* and *Final Storm*. *Teresa A New Australian* was inspired by her dad, who, with a million other refugees, made the journey to Australia after surviving the devastation of WW2. *The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee* and sequel, *The Most Marvellous Spelling Bee Mystery*, were inspired

by her grade 4 teacher and her first picture book is, *Wolfie, An Unlikely Hero*. She is a proud ambassador for the Premier's Reading Challenge, Room to Read and Books in Homes. <http://www.deborahabela.com>

Deb has won [awards for her books](#), including the Maurice Saxby Award, US IBBY award for Outstanding International Book and Best Book in Translation, Malta. Deb has been presenting in schools and festivals for over 18 years and loves getting kids excited about books, reading and writing.

LIST OF BOOKS

All published with Penguin Random House Australia unless otherwise stated.

Bear in Space (2020) picture book (*Published UK, Malta*)

Final Storm (2019) (sequel to *Grimsdon* and *New City*)

The Most Marvellous Spelling Bee Mystery (2018) (*Published USA*)

Wolfie, An Unlikely Hero picture book (2017)

The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee (2016) (*Published USA, Malta*)

Teresa: A New Australian (Scholastic 2016) (*Published Malta*)

New City (2014) the sequel to *Grimsdon*

Ghost Club 3 part series (2012-13)

Charlie and Alice 2 part series (*Pearson Education, UK, 2012*)

Grimsdon (2010) (*Published Germany and Brazil*)

The Remarkable Secret of Aurelie Bonhoffen (2009) (*Pub USA*)

Max Remy Superspy 10 part series (2002-2008) (*Published in Spain, UK, USA, Greece, Brazil, Japan, Turkey*)
Jasper Zammit (Soccer Legend) 3 part series (2005-2006)

OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATIONS

Author Talks Ages 5-12 Deborah's author talks are engaging, interactive and fun. With her teaching and TV background, she uses images, videos, storytelling and games to demystify the writing process and prove that writing can be exciting and fun.

Writing Workshops for ages 5-16 (Ideal audience size 30)

Ever since Deborah was 7 she has been good at making trouble, so it was obvious she would grow up to be a writer. Find out how being a troublemaker led her to write about flying machines, swordfights and kids who face bad guys and sea monsters. Students will engage in activities that explore the writing process from developing ideas, to planning outlines and, most importantly, creating characters and plots readers will love...whilst having lots of fun along the way!

PD Session for Teachers: Fun Activities to Get Kids Writing!

In this practical, hands-on session, Deborah will lead you through a series of activities to help your students become better writers. Together, you will explore ways to help your students develop ideas, draft exciting prose and create characters and plots readers will love. Most importantly, you'll do it in a way that encourages them to enjoy writing. The session includes a 20-page handout brimming with fun and inspiring activities to use in your class.

Some Reactions to Deb's sessions

- It was great to see the students breathing in the enthusiasm and expertise of Deb. She is truly inspirational and I'll take many of her techniques back to the classroom. **Teacher, Lake Joondalup Baptist College.**
- Deb had so much energy. The children were engaged and focused from the beginning of the session. **Leah Wallis, The Hills Library, Castle Hill NSW**
- Great presenter, great enthusiasm and resources. **Teacher PD Day UWS**
- Thank you for your energy and enthusiasm. Your workshops, presentations and talks have been truly inspiring on every level for our students, parents and teachers. **Sally Dall'Oglio, English Coordinator, BSJ, Jakarta**
- Today was one of the best days of my life! I love Deborah Abela's books and her personality so much. **Imogen age 11 Dianella Heights PS**
- Deborah Abela visited our school and it was the BEST ever day out of all my school years. Out of all the authors I've seen, she is the best! **Kylan age 11 Riverbank PS**