

THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

CHELTENHAM

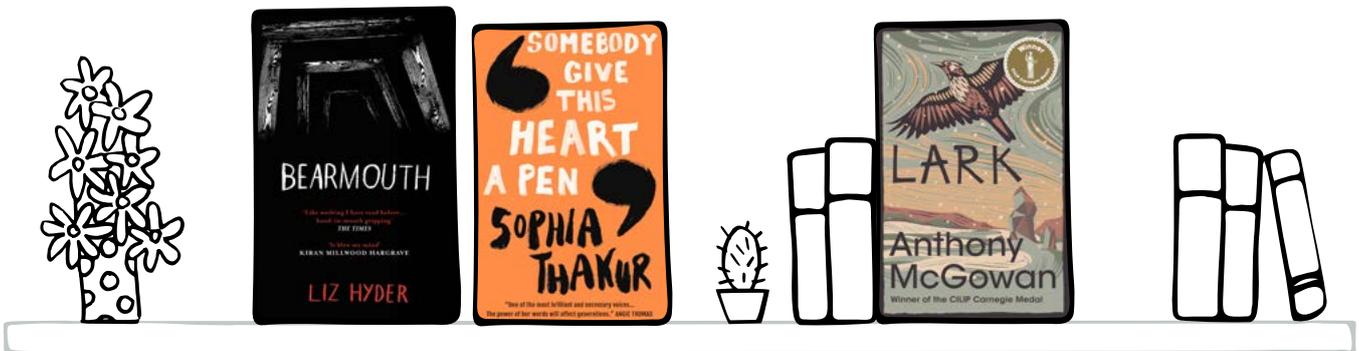
Literature
Festival



#CheltLitFest

CREATE YOUR OWN FESTIVAL

SECONDARY SCHOOL PACK



Welcome to Cheltenham Literature Festival for Schools 2020. We hope you and your students enjoy our first ever digital schools programme – all free!

You can create your own festival week at school, or dip into your choice of events over the term – whatever works best for you. Please share the programme with your whole school community as this is the first year that young people everywhere can access the festival.

Thank you so much for taking part.

Sarah Forbes (Education Manager)

Lorraine Evans (Family and Schools Programme Manager)

Create Your Own Festival at School

In this pack you will find information to support viewing our festival events in the classroom. Our award-winning authors and poets will inspire your students to discover new books and find their creativity. In addition to our schools events, our adult programme has lots that may be of interest to you and your students. See page 9 for details.

Look out for the following next to each event...

CREATIVE CHALLENGES

Many of our authors have set a creative challenge as part of their event – look out for the yellow boxes. You could respond as a class during a lesson or set the challenge as a homework or an extension for your keen writers.

Notes for teachers

You and your students do not need to have read the book before watching the event – the key ideas and themes of the book or talk are summarised in these boxes, and we have included links to other classroom activities.

How To View

Visit our virtual Festival site cheltenhamliteraturefestival.com and click on The Den.



Secondary school events will be uploaded on the website from 8am on Monday 5 October, Wednesday 7 October and Wednesday 14 October and then available to watch until 31 December 2020. You don't need to register to watch and all events in The Den are free to view.

The filmed events in The Den are on the Vimeo platform. You may need to ask your IT department to check that Vimeo isn't blocked by your school's firewall, and to unblock it temporarily if it is.

Share Your Festival

We'd love to share in your school's Literature Festival.

Many of our authors have set a **Creative Challenge** as part of their event. You can use the Creative Challenge template on page 10. If your students respond, we would love to see their writing or illustrations. Please take pictures and tag us in on Twitter or Instagram **@cheltfestivals** using the hashtag **#CheltLitFestCreative**

Don't forget to tag the authors too – you might even get a response!

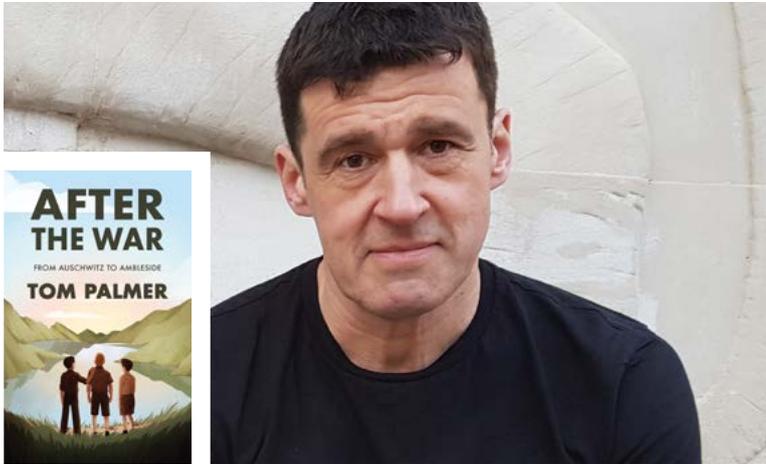
Donations

Although this year's school's programme is completely FREE, we ask if you would consider making a donation to secure the future of our charity so that we can continue to inspire and support the next generation of readers and writers. Suggested donation £150 – less than the cost of tickets for one class to visit the Festival. You can donate by contacting us at education@cheltenhamfestivals.com

If you would like to buy the books, please consider doing this through our Waterstones' Festival Bookshop.

Every purchase from cheltenhamliteraturefestival.com/waterstones supports our charity.





LD04

Tom Palmer *After the War*

Age recommendation: 11+

Brave the weather with **Tom Palmer** as he tours the settings of his book, *After the War*. From the hills over Windermere and aboard a small boat on the lake, Tom explains how he researched a book by allowing you to enjoy one of England's most beautiful landscapes, while hearing the story of three boys who survived the Holocaust, arriving in Cumbria to rebuild their lives following World War II.

CREATIVE CHALLENGE

In Tom's film, he shows us the airfield where 300 Jewish refugees arrived after the war to start a new life in the Lake District. They came without any family, and many had never heard of the UK. They had no idea what it would be like or whether they would be welcomed.

Imagine what it would have been like to arrive in a country that you had never seen or heard of before. Write about a place you know well as if you are seeing it for the first time. Use the six questions What? When? Where? Why? Who? How? to develop your ideas.

Notes for teachers

After the War: From Auschwitz to Ambleside offers readers the opportunity to explore a historical novel based on real events and experiences. Compare the fictional account with some of the source material, consider research as part of the writing process and explore the Lake District of the post-war period through characters Yossi, Leo and Mordecai. You'll find more classroom resources linked to *After the War* and other titles by Tom Palmer here tompalmer.co.uk/schools-librarians/literacy-resources/

LD06

Katherine Rundell *The Good Thieves*

Age recommendation: 11+

Award-winning author **Katherine Rundell** whisks you away on an adventure that will take your imagination exploring the Amazon rainforest, racing the icy Russian steppes, climbing the rooftops of Paris and trapezing through 1920s New York City. Meet Vita, Silk, Arkady and Samuel – four children who will do anything to right a wrong – and become part of *The Good Thieves* troupe.

CREATIVE CHALLENGE

Read from *The Book of Hopes* (see below). Write your own 200-word story that kick-starts hope in the person reading it. It doesn't need to be about hope, but it should leave the person reading it feeling, in Katherine Rundell's words, 'a little bolder, a little tougher, a little more ready to face the world.'



Notes for teachers

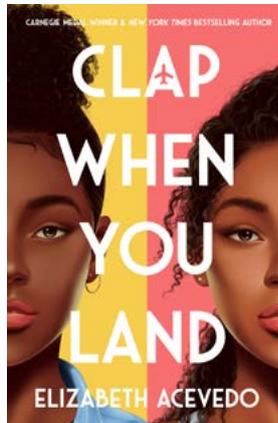
In this event, Katherine Rundell explores the importance of setting through reference to her books *The Explorer*, *Wolf Wilder*, *Rooftoppers* and *The Good Thieves*, explaining that place becomes a character in her writing. She shows pictures of the travels and experiences that underpin the research for her books and shares fascinating facts about the animals that inhabit her writing, including the pink dolphins and piranha of the Amazon, and a Welsh wolf! Katherine also discusses *The Book of Hopes: Words and Pictures to Comfort, Inspire and Entertain Children in Lockdown*, written by over 100 of the best children's authors and illustrators. You can read *The Book of Hopes* edited by Katherine Rundell for free on the National Literacy Trust website literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/ and find a range of teaching resources to go with the book and support the recovery curriculum.

LD07

Elizabeth Acevedo *Clap When You Land*

Age recommendation: 14+

Inspirational performance poet and author **Elizabeth Acevedo** talks with journalist **Sarah Shaffi** about the power of poetry and storytelling. Elizabeth discusses her Carnegie Medal winning title *The Poet X* as well as her latest verse novel, *Clap When You Land*, the story of two sisters and the life-shattering event which unites them. Prepare to discover the power of her words and how to find your own voice.



CREATIVE CHALLENGE

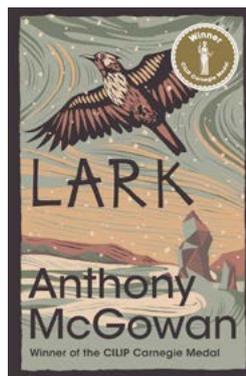
Write an Ode to Yourself

An ode is a lyric poem addressed to a specific subject. You may be familiar with Keats' *Ode to a Grecian Urn* or *Ode to Autumn*, but there are more modern examples too, such as Pablo Neruda's *Ode to My Socks* or Sharon Olds' *Ode to Dirt*. Write an ode addressing a part of yourself that you wouldn't always celebrate – either a physical feature or personality trait.

Notes for teachers

Clap When You Land is a verse novel with a dual narrative – students could look at the way Elizabeth Acevedo uses different poetic structures, vocabulary and cadences to differentiate between the voices of the two narrators. In the talk, Elizabeth discusses the influence of hip hop and the importance of reading a wide range of poetry beyond the canon, giving opportunities for students to see poetry in the popular culture they experience. *The Poet X* was one of the most popular books on our secondary school reading for pleasure outreach programme 'Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils' this year and classes or book clubs that took part will be interested to hear how Acevedo approached the writing of this novel. Celebrate the power of poetry to tell your story or respond to an issue important to you and use the creative challenge as a springboard for students to enjoy writing their own poems.

You can find out more about Elizabeth's work at acevedowrites.com



LD08

Anthony McGowan *Lark*

Age recommendation: 11+

When the weather turns wild on the moors, teenage brothers Nicky and Kenny find themselves in an icy life-or-death situation. Author **Anthony McGowan** discusses Carnegie-winning *Lark*, the tense finale to his series *The Truth of Things*. Anthony explores the origins of the series through his own experiences of life at a tough school in a small Northern town, takes us on a tour through the landscape of the novels and gives an insight into his journey as a writer.

Notes for teachers

Lark is the fourth in the quartet *The Truth of Things* and follows Nicky and Kenny on a trek across the moors which quickly turns into a life or death situation. It can stand alone, but students may want to read the whole of Nicky and Kenny's story in the preceding novellas *Brock*, *Pike* and *Rook*. The novel's accessibility and relatable characters make it perfect for reading as a whole book with students of all abilities in the classroom. Explore how Anthony McGowan finds drama in the ordinary rather than the fantastical, and how nature and setting are central to the novel. *Lark*'s central characters have had many challenges to deal with – their resilience and compassion, their authentic voices and the inclusion of a character with learning difficulties provide many opportunities for exploring empathy in the classroom.

You can find classroom resources for *Lark* here barringtonstoke.co.uk/books/lark-resources

CREATIVE CHALLENGE

Fractals: Zooming In

When you zoom closer into a fractal, it gets ever more detailed. Use this idea to 'zoom into' the detail of a scenario from everyday life, focusing on the tiny details that make our lives unique and interesting.

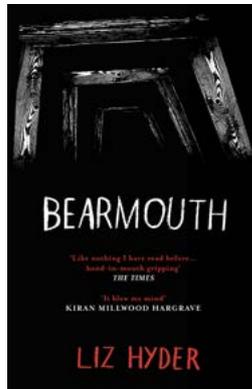
LD09

Liz Hyder Bearmouth

Age recommendation: 12+

Descend into the darkness of the coal mine with author **Liz Hyder** as she talks with **Alex O'Connell** (*The Times*) about her novel *Bearmouth*, *The Times* children's book of the year. Liz and Alex discuss the creative process of imagining a fictional underground world; how Liz invites her readers to consider the power of words to inspire change; and how everyone should have the right to ask questions.

WINNER OF WATERSTONES CHILDREN'S BOOK PRIZE
2020 OLDER READERS CATEGORY



CREATIVE CHALLENGE

Down in the Darkness

Close your eyes and imagine that you are a new miner in *Bearmouth*. It is the end of your first day down the mine. You have worked for over 12 hours in dark, dusty and dangerous conditions. Imagine how it would look, smell, sound, feel. Write a letter to your family at home, describing the mine and explaining that you won't be coming home.

Use the *Creative Challenge* template on page 11–13

Notes for teachers

Bearmouth is set in a coal mine where men and children live and work in absolute darkness, never seeing the light of day. Learners could explore the world building in the novel: the setting, the characterisation, Liz Hyder's unique use of language to create Newt's voice and the belief system that keeps the workers compliant. Explore themes of religion, power and resistance – the idea of 'revolushun' is central to the novel. There are many historic contextual aspects to explore: the mining industry, child labour, the worker's rights movement, as well as literary influences on the language and voice of the novel which has echoes of Shakespeare, Chaucer and Blake. In the talk, links are made between the working conditions in the mine and modern-day zero hours contracts.

Please note: the interview reveals the gender of the protagonist which is unknown at the beginning of the novel. If your class are going to read *Bearmouth*, you may want them to get to this point in the book before you share this film.



LD10

Annet Schaap Lampie

Age recommendation: 11+

Every evening Lampie the lighthouse keeper's daughter must light a lantern to warn ships away from the rocks. But one stormy night disaster strikes. The lantern goes out, a ship is wrecked, and an adventure begins. Dive into a world of mermaids and pirates with Dutch author **Annet Schaap** as she talks with **Emma Carroll** (*Letters from the Lighthouse*) about her prize-winning novel, shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal.

CREATIVE CHALLENGE

A fish out of water

Imagine that you've become a sea creature: an octopus, a seahorse, a merperson, a blobfish?! How did you become this creature – was magic involved? You could consider your physical appearance, the way you sound, the way you move, how you feel. Think about your environment – where are you? Are you happy there? Has becoming this creature created problems for you, or perhaps solved them? What is your life like as a sea creature? Illustrate your writing with a picture of yourself as the sea creature.

Notes for teachers

There are so many interesting themes and devices to explore in *Lampie*: magical realism; literary influences such as fairytales, *The Little Mermaid* and *The Secret Garden*; family and hardship, inclusivity and activism. The novel raises questions that will prompt discussion and debate amongst learners – Who are the real monsters? How does society treat difference? The illustrations are beautiful and blend seamlessly with the writing to create a recognisable but magical world.

LD11

Sophia Thakur Poetry Masterclass

Age recommendation: 12+

Explore all things poetic with acclaimed spoken word artist **Sophia Thakur**. Sophia performs from her collection *Somebody Give this Heart a Pen* and makes a case for seeing poetry as part of the everyday fabric of our lives: in conversation, songs, marketing, religion and the stories we tell. Find the poet within by following Sophia's three steps for making your writing poetic and your performance impactful.

CREATIVE CHALLENGE

Write a poem and perform it using Sophia's 3 steps for writing and performance.

3 steps to make your writing 'more poetic'

- SENSES – explore how the senses can interchange to expand the description of a feeling or moment.
- INWARD LIST – Ask WHY? over and over until you're at the core of the story. Why does she react like this? Why is he scared? What happened in their lives to bring them to this point?
- WHERE DO YOU WANT TO END UP? – Is this an inspiring story? A hopeful story? A sad story?

3 steps to perfect your performance

- TONE – Happy? Sad? Angry? Peaceful? Excited?
- PACE – Quick? Slow? Pauses?
- TEXTURE – Sharp? Soft? Emphasis on particular words? Loud? Quiet?

Notes for teachers

Sophia is an experienced spoken word artist and an accomplished public speaker. In this event she links her experiences of writing poetry to potential career paths as well as giving tips on writing and performance that will encourage everyone's inner poet to emerge. This masterclass will inspire students to find the poetry in their everyday lives, to look closely at the world and consider the experiences that connect them.

Sophia is a passionate champion of poetry as a form and recently appeared on BBC Newsnight to discuss the Ofqual announcement that poetry was to be a non-essential part of the GCSE Literature course in 2021 [facebook.com/bbcnews/videos/2135556236588634](https://www.facebook.com/bbcnews/videos/2135556236588634)

sophiathakur.co.uk





LD18

Matthew Syed

Dare to be You!

Age recommendation: 11+

Event recorded in front of a live audience at The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival

Matthew Syed, the #1 bestselling, award-winning author of *You Are Awesome*, discusses his much-anticipated follow-up *Dare To Be You* and shows you just how brilliant it is to be different! Learn to be more confident, overcome Kid Doubt, and follow your own path. Because when you stop doubting yourself, start embracing change and let your kindness loose, you can be your own hero.

CREATIVE CHALLENGE

Kid Doubt is the voice inside your head that makes you feel overwhelmed, anxious, unsure of yourself, or that you don't quite fit in. Everyone has a Kid Doubt and every Kid Doubt looks and sounds different. But all Kid Doubts have one thing in common – they are trying to hold us back. What sort of things does your Kid Doubt say to you? Take a blank sheet of paper and draw your Kid Doubt on one side and yourself on the other. Underneath Kid Doubt draw some thought bubbles and write down some of the things that make you feel unsure or worried. Now imagine that Kid Doubt is nowhere to be seen and underneath the drawing of you write down all the things that make you awesome and different.

Notes for teachers

Dare to be You ties in with the recovery curriculum, and there is a whole unit of resources available online to support young people in the return to school following lockdown, encouraging them to be 'makers of their own change' and to understand how difference is an asset. Hachette Children's Group are offering a 50% discount on class sets of *Dare to be You*.

For more details on this offer go to hachetteschools.co.uk/landing-page/hachette-schools/pixl-change-makers-resources-for-teachers/ and for teachers' guidance and resources, visit hachette.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Teacher-Guidance.pdf

LD34

Anthony Horowitz Alex Rider

Age recommendation: 11+

Event recorded in front of a live audience at The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival

The world's greatest teenage spy is back in the twelfth thrilling instalment in the Alex Rider series. After the death of Scorpia, Alex sets off to Gibraltar and enters a battle against a new criminal organization Nightshade. International bestselling author **Anthony Horowitz**, one of the country's most prolific and versatile writers, talks about the inspirations and passions behind his action, adrenaline, adventure filled series (now a hit show on Amazon Prime) with Julia Wheeler.

CREATIVE CHALLENGE

Read this extract from *Stormbreaker*:

'He rolled out of bed and walked over to the open window, his bare feet pressing down the carpet pile. The moonlight spilled on to his chest and shoulders. Alex was fourteen, already well built, with the body of an athlete. His hair, cut short apart from two thick strands hanging over his forehead, was fair. His eyes were brown and serious. For a moment he stood silently, half-hidden in the shadow, looking out. There was a police car parked outside. From his second-floor window Alex could see the black ID number on the roof and the caps of the two men who were standing in front of the door. The porch light went on and, at the same time, the door opened.'

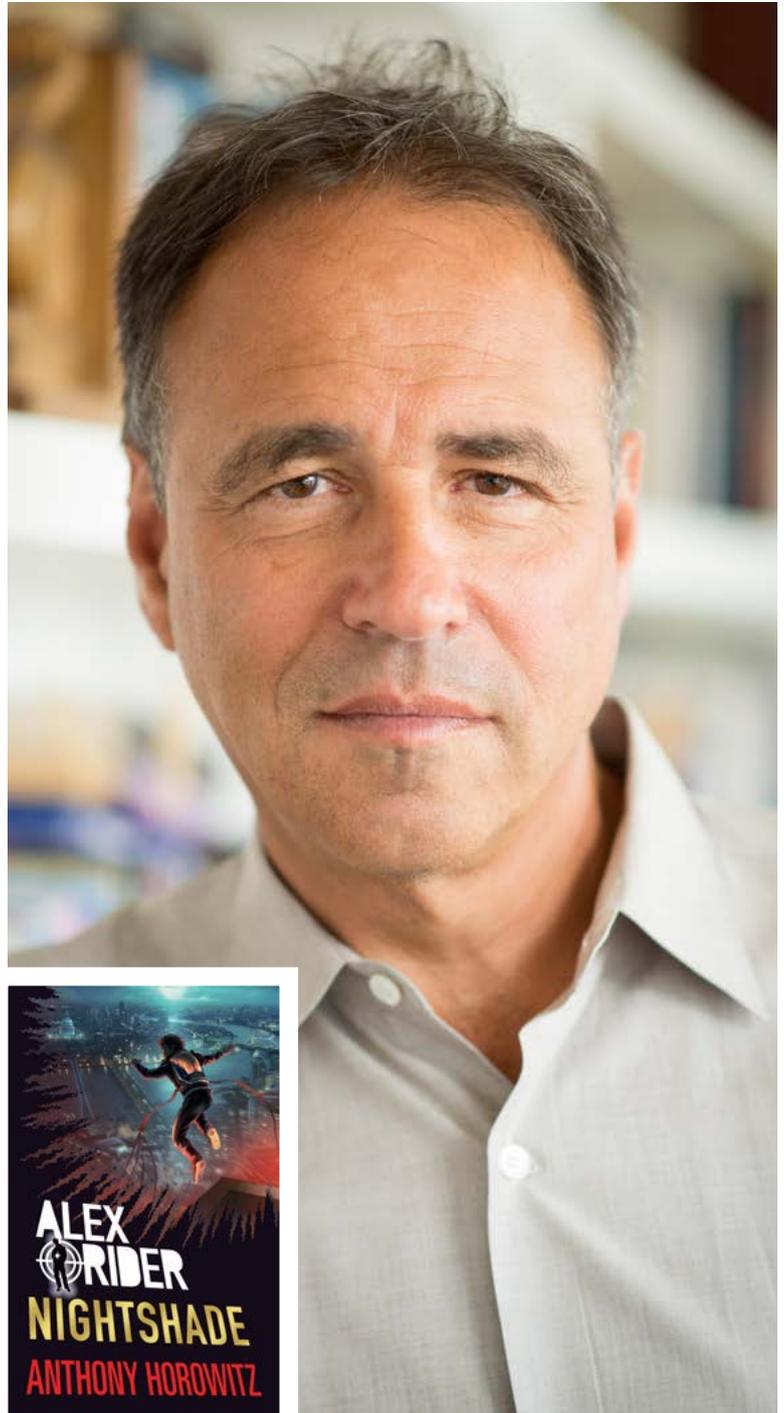
Write the next paragraph of the story. Why are the police at the door? What happens next?

Reproduced from *Stormbreaker* (Walker Books)
©Anthony Horowitz 2000

Notes for teachers

This event is being filmed live at the Literature Festival. *Alex Rider* is a series of novels about a teenage spy. There are now 13 novels in the series as well as graphic novels and short stories, and there is an Alex Rider film as well as the 2020 tv series.

You can find lots more activities for the classroom on the Alex Rider website alexrider.com



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Share with us at
[#CheltLitFestCreative](#)

Links to Other Activities

Free Beano Comic and Character Trail – download from The Den

Download your free Festival Beano comic featuring favourite characters from Dennis to Minnie the Minx and Gnasher. Print out the 8 character posters and Quiz Sheet to create a trail around your school for pupils to enjoy. Children can also enter the competition on [Beano.com/chellitfest](https://www.beano.com/chellitfest) between 5th and 18th October, to win a year's subscription to the Beano comic.



Write for Wellbeing with Beyond Words

In a new partnership with the Bupa Foundation, Mind and the National Literacy Trust, we're inviting all schools, young people, their teachers and supporters/carers to join **Beyond Words for World Mental Health Day**, a national creative project where students can put into words their feelings about a year like no other and submit their pieces. For every submission the Bupa Foundation will donate to charity and a selection of pieces will be published in an anthology.

Beyond Words for World Mental Health Day runs from 11 September – 18 October. Find inspiration from authors about writing for wellbeing and more information at bupaoundation.org/beyond-words

