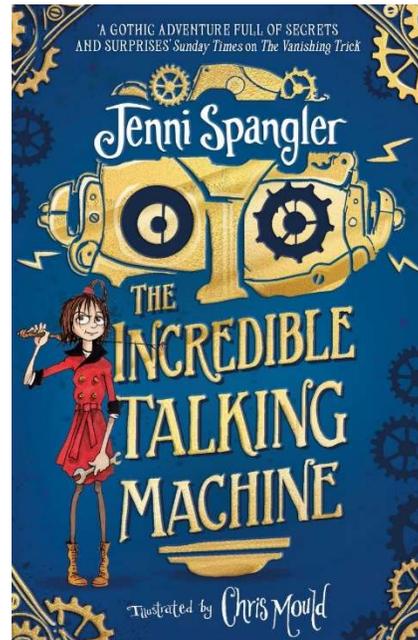
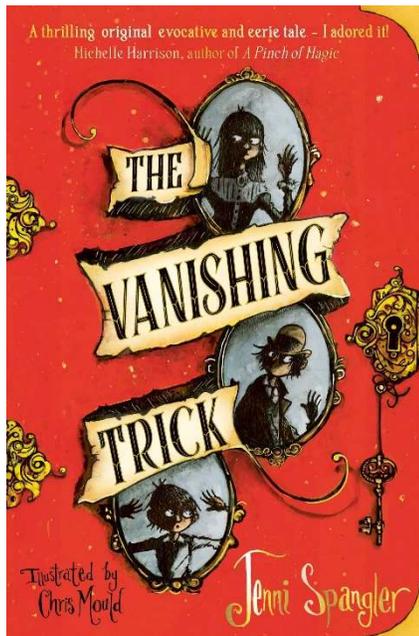


## Jenni Spangler – Author School Visits



Thank you for considering me for a visit to your school. I love sharing my passion for writing and creativity with young people. My aim is to leave your students with a new burst of enthusiasm – and some simple, practical techniques and tools – to improve their writing and express their natural creativity.

All of my sessions are interactive and my workshops focus on the process of creating, rather than writing a polished piece. I want students to find their own ways of working, and to tell the stories that only they can tell. As a writer with ADHD, I know how frustrating it can be when the “normal” way of learning and succeeding doesn’t seem to fit your brain. For that reason I’m always striving to make my sessions inclusive and flexible. I encourage students to become a supportive team, cheering each other on and embracing their ‘weird’ – their unique perspectives and interests.

As well as one-off visits, I offer a term long writer-in-residence programme which includes everything listed here and more – designed to supercharge your pupils’ writing. Ask about the Magpie Club if you’d like to know more.

## The Basics:

**Full day:** £400, plus travel and accommodation where relevant

**Includes:**

One 1-hour author talk/Q&A – suitable for year three upwards, no maximum number

2 x 1.5 hour workshops – see below for options. Best suited for years 5/6/7 but can be adapted for year 3 and 4. Works best with a single class.

Book signing

**Or**

3 x workshops plus signing

**Half day:** £250, plus travel and accommodation where relevant

**Includes:**

One 1-hour author talk/Q&A – suitable for year three upwards, no maximum number

One 1.5 hour workshop – see below for options. Best suited for years 5/6/7 but can be adapted for year 3 and 4. Works best with a single class.

Book signing

## Author talk

In this assembly style presentation I discuss my experience as an author and debunk common misconceptions about creative work, including 'I have to get right first time' and 'people like me can't be writers'. I'll talk about my inspiration and share some weird facts I learned during my research. The last 15-20 minutes will be Q&A style, so the children can ask me anything they want to know about my books or being a writer in general.

Works best at the first session of the day so the workshop groups already know who I am and can get right to work. Can be done in the school hall or with smaller groups – I require powerpoint facilities.

## Workshops

With quizzes, games and creative prompts, each workshop focuses on an element of story writing. Workshops are for one class or group of up to 35 children and last 90mins. Shorter slots and larger groups may work, but this limits the interaction I'm able to give – please speak with me before booking.

I require powerpoint facilities and children need tables, paper and pens/pencils. I provide any other resources needed. I can deliver the same workshop to multiple groups or work through multiple workshops with the same class – you can mix and match from the list below.

# Workshop Menu

## Work Hard, Be Kind, Stay Weird

Please note: this session is a more in-depth workshop style version of my main author talk – you most likely don't want the same children to attend both!

Where do authors get their ideas from? Are some people just born talented? What if people don't like my work? I talk about misconceptions I had about being an author and the lessons I've learned. I talk about the three things all my favourite creatives have in common – they work incredibly hard, they are always kind, and they have kept hold of their own unique interests and point of view. We'll try out some warm-up exercises to get the creative brain charged up for writing, and find out that we are ALL naturally creative – we just need the courage to express it.

## How to Photograph a Ghost

This session is all about finding inspiration. I love to mix real world events and people with magic, so I'll tell you about the real Victorians who inspired *The Vanishing Trick* and *The Incredible Talking Machine*. I'll share my excitement for unearthing interesting facts from history, and teach a simple technique for generating story ideas from prompts and pictures – every child gets a unique prompt to test it out.

## The Worst Guy for the Job

Good stories need great characters. We'll look at how characters are developed, and what makes us love the hero and hate the villain. Using simple drama techniques we'll find out why being a good person is not the same as being a good character. Everyone will create an original character and consider the adventures they might have.

## Lost in a Story

Story structure beyond the pyramid graph. Using familiar examples we'll unpick what makes a compelling story. We'll work together to plot a mystery and try out the 'hero's journey' method of making a strong and exciting narrative. Students will surprise themselves with what they can create and how much they naturally understand about the rhythms of story.

## Mind Control for Beginners

How do we trick a reader's brain into believing our stories and caring about our characters? With great descriptive writing! We'll use our senses, emotions, and personalities to write amazing descriptions. We'll also answer important questions such as: 'How hard is it to draw something you've never seen?' (very hard!) 'What did history smell like?' (very bad) and 'How many nerdy brain facts can I squeeze into one workshop?' (a lot).

## Book Signings

I include a book signing with every visit. Often children will want their own copy after an author visit and I usually recommend schools send out letters and ask parents to pay in advance for any purchases. Your local bookshop will often be delighted to organise this for you. The signing can be done during lunch hour or at the end of the day. If necessary I can sign bookplates and send them on later, but it's nice for the children to come and say hello themselves if it can be managed.

I'm not able to bring my own stock or handle any money on the day, but let me know if you need any pointers about book sales before the event.

## General notes

I am DBS checked and carry Public Liability Insurance as a member of the National Association of Writers in Education. However I am not a teacher and a member of staff must be present throughout the events.

I do ask teachers to join in with the workshops – the children get so much out of seeing the adults take part and be creative with them.

Please plan for 15 minutes gap between sessions for comfort breaks and to avoid any rush.

I want my sessions to be accessible and enjoyable for all pupils – please let me know if there is anything I can do to support the needs of your particular group.

## Optional Extras – Magpie Club Kits

The Creative Arts and Writing Society (informally known as the Magpie Club) was originally set up as part of my writer-in-residence programme. All the children who take part receive a membership badge and certificate declaring them “officially” writers, artists and creatives. The aim is to counteract the drop-off in writing and drawing for pleasure when children transition to secondary school by boosting confidence and excitement.



Lots of other children's authors and illustrators are members of our club, because we want children to know that they are the same as us – we're also learning, getting things wrong, making a mess etc.

They proved to be so popular online I ended up putting them up for sale – and immediately selling out overnight. As such I've decided to offer these at bulk discount to any schools I visit. I can give them out during workshops, or they could be kept as prizes or sold within school to raise money.

I can also offer hardback artist sketchbooks with the magpie branding if desired. If you are interested in either of these let me know and I will find a quote. There's no obligation whatsoever- I won't be making profit from these, and am only offering them because of the surge in interest.