

DALSTON CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Dalston Town Tales
30 August 2013
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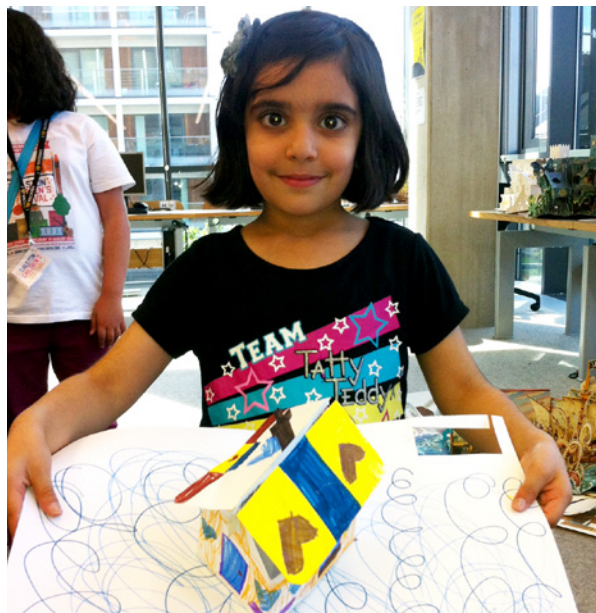
My sister and her pop-up house



My character 'Cheese'



The fun houses we made



Maha is proud of her beautifully decorated pop-up house

A great day at Dalston Library

I went to the library and I made a pop-up book with Nick Denchfield and I saw lots of his pop-up books. There were lots of children and grown-ups making paper houses. I did a singalong outside with Mrs H. We clapped our hands and stamped our feet. We had fun making a train and singing along. I had lunch in a cafe then I went back to the library and I made a picture book with author Jessica Spanyol. I made my own character, a mouse called Cheese. It's favourite toy was a cat and she liked playing in the garden. Jessica read us a story about a giraffe. It was a great day because I got to do what I like doing the best!

By Tilda Harrison, 6 years old

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Is book history horrid?

It was a Friday. The rain was pouring and... wait, no!? Scrap that! It was a sunny, normal day for Friday. That was the time me and Alma went to Dalston CLR James Library. It was to meet... (Dun dun duunnn!) Sarah Hadland and Catherine Johnson.

Sarah Hadland was born in London and trained in dance from the age of three. During her schooling at Wilmslow High School in Cheshire, she became involved in human beatboxing and amateur dramatics with the Scamps youth group in Wilmslow. Since I watch 'Horrible Histories', it was an honour to meet her.

Catherine Johnson is a teen/8+ author. Although I sadly haven't read any of her books, I would recommend her new book 'Sawbones' because when we met her during the 'Meet the Author' session we were lucky to become the first group of children to be read Catherine's latest book 'Sawbones' by Sarah! I'm glad I met her, because I love reading the type of books she writes.

In that room, what we did was no biggie. All we did was sat and talked. Whoops! I don't remember anything like that. (I must be dreaming!) What we really did was have some pictures taken. One idea was me and Sarah peeking out from one side and Alma and Catherine peeking out from the other. It was so much fun and I'm glad as a reporter, I got the chance to do that activity. I hope this review inspires young children like me to try their best to become a reporter to do fun, awesome and epic things.

By Hiba Ishtiyag, 9 years old

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Horrible Histories & Savage 'Sawbones'

Today we went to 'Dalston Town Tales' at Dalston CLR James library to interview author Catherine Johnson and actress Sarah Hadland.

Sarah has worked on the TV programme 'Horrible Histories', which I really like, 'Miranda' and in a West End musical called 'Cats'. Catherine has written historical books for adults and children. Her latest book is called 'Sawbones' and it will be in the book shops in October. Sarah gave people an exclusive read of the gory bits and it was so gory but described very well. Because Catherine's new book was set in Georgian times Sarah also read us a bit from 'Gorgeous Georgians'. The part about body snatching made me get shivers up my spine.

When we interviewed Sarah we asked her: 'Who do you like playing and she said the Egyptians'. Catherine gave us some writing tips: 'When you write your first draft write it so it's rubbish so the teachers mark it and they help you make it better by re-writing it'.

Before the interview we did a pop-up book session with Nick Denchfield who had made lots of pop-up books. He has made the 'Gruffalo' into a pop-up book. He taught us how to make a pop-up house which was great fun! We also went to see author and illustrator David Lucas. My dad did an adult workshop on how to write a children's picture book. My dad really enjoyed it and he's just started on his best-seller!

It was awesome day and I was excited about getting Sarah's and Catherine's autographs.

By Alma Harrison, 9 years old