

Nicola Davies

Where were you born and brought up?

My father comes from Port Talbot, but I was brought up in a little village in England. I never liked school much: I just wanted to read stories and write them. Later, I did go to University and get a degree in Mathematics, but writing stories was always the most important thing to me.

What did you want to be?

I only wanted one thing, and that was to write. I wrote plays as well as stories and we acted them in Brownies and Guides and, later, in Youth Club. When I was about twelve, I started a writers' club with my friend Sandra. It was a very exclusive club: there were only two members, which was all we needed. We used to read our stories to each other in Sandra's tree house, with her three cats as the audience. Both of us are writers now, although Sandra writes for adults.

Do you find it easy to write?

Yes, because by the time I come to write a story down, I've already been thinking about it for weeks. Once it's written, I edit it: I go over it again and again, to make sure it reads smoothly and says exactly what I meant it to say. However, I don't write often. I have to get really excited about a story before I write it down, and that only happens once every few years!

Where do you write?

In my head. By the time I get to the computer or the pen and paper, the writing's already been done. There's only the editing left to do.

Are some of your characters based on yourself?

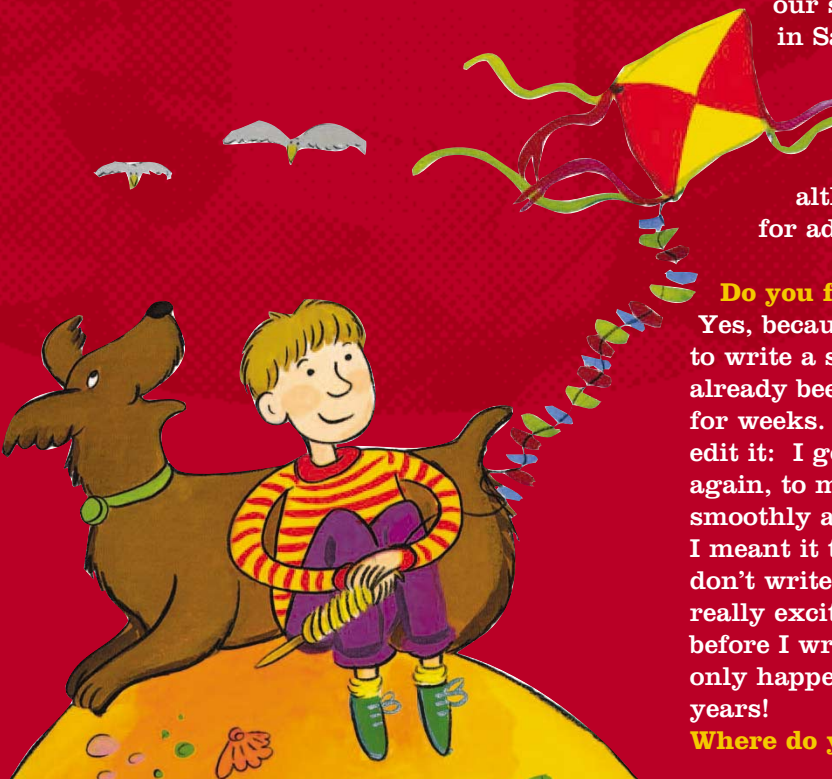
Well, since the characters in my latest book, **Stories from Abergelli Street**, are a talking dragon, a bunch of nosy pigeons and a friendly donkey who wants to fly, I don't think any of my characters are based on me. Mind you, my mother used to dream that she was flying in the sky, so perhaps the donkey is based on my mother!

What are your hobbies?

Collecting very old books, especially children's. And baking my own bread.

What makes you laugh?

Looking in the mirror and seeing a grown-up instead of a little girl.



CYNGOR LLYFRAU CYMRU
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Sid, my cat, knows what I'm here for. He thinks I'm for sitting on, for feeding him and for standing on the doorstep at night, calling his name. Sid doesn't know I write books, and he doesn't care. And as for the owl at the top of my drive that blinks in the headlights when I come home at night, she just thinks I'm an animal with huge glowing eyes; she probably wishes I was a mouse!

It's always fascinated me that we live in a world of aliens, furred and feathered creatures whose lives are quite different from our own and who have no idea about the ways of people. I think that's why I write: curiosity about the lives of other creatures, other people. I've even written a poem through the eyes of a large dog.

Some people say writing is a lonely business, but when I write my stories,

I get so involved in them I'm certainly not lonely: I'm inside the stories, having fun or being challenged alongside my characters. When the book's ready, I get to work with fantastic people, like the artist Elaine Franks (who illustrated **Stories from Abergelli Street**) and my editor, who cares as much as I do about my books.

I love working with children when I visit schools. The wonderful thing about Wales is its variety; one day, I'm in a small rural school with 20 pupils, the next day I'm in a large town with hundreds of children in every school. For younger children, I've made some puppets (a green dragon with plaits is one of them) and I have fun speaking puppet-talk.

Well, I have to go now . . . Sid doesn't like me to sit at the computer when I could be throwing his pink plastic ball around the living room instead.

Books by Nicola Davies

Key Stage 1/2

Stories from Abergelli Street (Pont Readalone)

Seven short stories about a variety of humans and animals who live together.

1843230755 £3.50

Stories from Abergelli Street - Teacher's Book

1843232316 £9.99

Look Out! – Poems for Children (Hoppers Series)

Nicola Davies is one of five contributors to this collection of poems for young children.

185902792X £4.95

Can I Be the Ghost? – Five Short Plays

A collection of short plays by five different authors.

1859026621 £4.00

Key Stage 2/3

Everything Happens on Mondays

Short stories about the pupils of Glantwrch Middle School.

1859022987 £3.95

A Literary Resource Pack is also available to be used in conjunction with this book, comprising an audio cassette reading of the text, a teacher's booklet and photocopiable work sheets.

1843231492 £6.94

Shampoo and Seawater

1859026966 £3.95

Tangled Webs

1859028470 £4.95

The Blue Man and other stories from Wales

1859022286 £4.95

One of the stories in this anthology of short stories by various authors, is by Nicola Davies.

