

Susea Spray Author Visits



Information Pack

About The Author



A retired classroom teacher who majored in English and Children's Literature, Susea spent 23 years making literacy learning fun for her young students. Her favourite time of day was sitting down with a book or two and immersing her students in the world of storytelling.

Susea has always written in one form or another. A decade ago, she and her husband commenced on an around the world sailing odyssey. Their travels were recorded on Susea's sailing blog.

As she documented the sailing journey, notes and ideas for children's picture books were taking form. At long last Susea had found her passion and a voice. She now shares her love of language, sailing and sea with young and old through the eyes of a big blue boat and a young girl - her Captain.

Susea's first book *A Big Blue Boat*, was released in March 2022. A 2023 Purple Dragonfly Award winner, 2022 Literary Titan Silver Award Winner, 2022 book finalist in the Page Turner Awards, and a 2021 Page Turner Awards writing finalist. *A Big Blue Boat* is the first in the series. Based upon Susea's adventures, the book fills the niche market of realistic sailing stories for young children, particularly girls.

The first sequel about life on the brine was Children's Picture Book Genre Winner and shortlisted in the 2023 Page Turner Awards. It's currently being illustrated by Australian illustrator, Emma Stuart, and is due for release next year.

In her spare time, Susea also loves to research, cook, photograph, quilt, embroider, walk, and work on her sailing blog.

The Book

Written for 4–8-year-olds, *A Big Blue Boat* is a fun, cumulative story about a boat, a girl, and the sea.

As the seas build, the boat and its captain are introduced through the mediums of rhythm, rhyme, and repetition.

At the peak, when seas are rollicking, the reader finds suddenly finds themselves in a bay where birds soar, winds roar and dolphins jive and dive.

Will the boat and her captain find this safe haven in time?

For Teachers

This is an interactive story that children love participating with. Its rhythm, rhyme and repetition make the book perfect for pre and early readers.



I email you a copy of the Teacher Resource Pack prior to my visit. This complements the book, has activities and ideas for most areas of the curriculum, and is aligned to the National Framework. The pack caters for grades F-3.

The Visit

In addition to sharing my book with the students, my visit introduces to them the adventure that led to my writing of the 'A Big Blue Boat' books.

The session includes:

- The use of a map and imagery that introduces them to a sailing journey where they learn about rare and extinct animals, ocean life, and the life people on remote islands lead.
- The reading which includes learning the actions for the story and parts of a boat.
- Students are encouraged to join in as I read.
- Students making a boat.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions and make comments throughout the session.
- All activity materials are provided by the author.



For After the Visit

- A writing activity is provided.
- Each student receives a bookmark.

I often visit small schools and have all students from K-6 in the same session. For these sessions I bring activities that cater for all age groups.

Materials Provided by the School

- **A book stand or a monitor for presenting to larger groups.**
- **Pencils, textas, crayons, and scissors for the children to use.**

For Parents and Staff Members

I offer schools the opportunity to provide for parents and staff members, a complimentary 1-hour session where I introduce them to the journey that led to the writing of the A Big Blue Boat books.

The books will be available for purchase after the session.

This can be held before or after school hours.

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For Schools

In support of literacy development, Spray Publications provides a 15% commission to the school for all book sales sold by the school prior to the visit.

The school will be provided with an order form that be forwarded to parents via email, or it can be printed.

An excel sheet for collating the orders will be provided.

Orders with payment are to be sent back to the school. Two weeks prior to the visit, the school is requested to email the completed excel sheet to Susea at: <mailto:susea.spray@gmail.com>.

The author will deliver the signed copies of the purchased books in bulk on arrival.

This will save parents \$8+ in postage.

Book Prices:

Soft Cover: \$19.99 RRP

Activity Book: \$15.00 RRP

Time Duration

1 hour

I do provide 45-minute sessions.

Dates Available 2024:

There are still places available in March.

April – June is now available for 2024 only

Price:

\$5 per child or \$120 fixed fee for less than 30 children

There are no additional costs.

Payment

Payment can be made on the day of the author visit or within 7 working days after the visit.

A credit card facility is available.

Books Available from:

Spray Publications Direct at: 0419818174 or susea.spray@gmail.com

Peter Pal

ALS Library Services

James Bennett

West Books

Book Stop, Victor Harbor

Angus and Robertson, Adelaide

Tahmoor News and Gifts, Tahmoor

The Book Cow, Kingston, ACT

Words from Teachers

Susea was engaging and had all students entertained from the start to end. I enjoyed the use of visual aids (map and boat) as it helped us (audience) to better understand Susea and her husband's boat trip. Susea answered students' questions without hesitation and was happy to guide students in the boat activities. Susea was lovely.'

Melissa, teacher: Heron's Creek Public School

We really appreciated your willingness to extend your time & go with the flow of the students' interests. You were prepared and organised, and the students responded to this. I was impressed with your ability to maintain attention even from some of our less attentive students.

In all this was engaging and fun & thoroughly enjoyable. The book, songs & activities were wonderful.

Barbara, teacher: Lockhart Primary School

Words from Students

'I love the dolphin picture you showed us. I liked making the boat. I mostly liked singing the book.'

Year 1 Boy

'I like the photos and I liked making the boat and the singing and the rhyming words.'

Year 2 Girl

'I like the rhyming and how it feels like you are on the sea.'

Year 1 Girl

I liked that you told us about the things that you saw on your journey and how you made the book feel like you're on the boat.'

Year 6 Boy