

## Julie Pike – Author Events

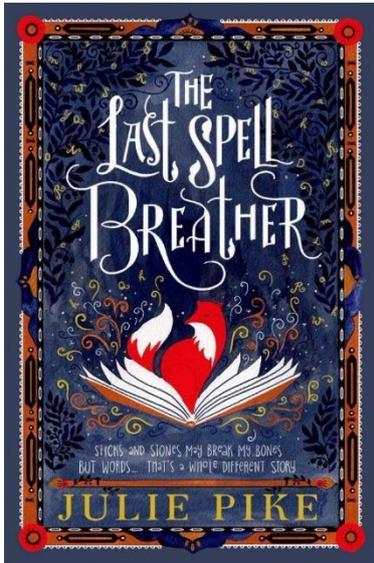


Hello, I'm Julie Pike, author of *The Last Spell Breather*.

I grew up in the Welsh Valleys, nestled between the forests and foothills of the mountains. I am passionate about adventure stories, and volunteer in local schools and libraries in Dorset, helping children find stories that excite them.

I am passionate about real-life adventures too, and have crawled inside the great pyramid of Giza, travelled to the peak of Kilimanjaro, and camped on the Great Wall of China in a lightning storm.

When not reading, writing, or adventuring, I work as a sustainability consultant, on environmental issues like climate change and plastic waste – helping to care for the planet, so future generations can grow up to have their own adventures.



*The Last Spell Breather* is middle-grade fantasy adventure, suitable for children ages 9-12.

Enter the unique world of the Spell Breathers! Spell Breathing does not come naturally to Rayne - she loathes the hours of practice, the stacks of scrolls, and the snapping mud devils that cover her mother's precious spell book. When the magic is broken, everyone is plunged into danger, and an incredible adventure begins . . .

*'An enchanting story that crackles with charm and casts a unique spell'* - Peter Bunzl, author of *Cogheart*

*'A perfectly told gem of story, one which left me sighing with happiness as I closed the final page'*

- Sinéad O'Hart, author of *The Eye of the North*

**About My Events** - I offer a 45-minute assembly-style interactive talk, suitable for upper Key Stage Two. I also offer a creative writing workshop, suitable for up to 35 students, which lasts an hour.

**Assembly Style Talk** - This will cover my writing journey and how *The Last Spell Breather* came to be. It includes a short reading, and me talking about how my adventuring influenced the story. I will also talk about one of the book's themes: The Power of Words, and use this to lead a Spell Making interactive session, using my trusty Oxford Thesaurus. This will involve bringing volunteers 'on stage' to make Spells.

**Workshop: Fantastic Characters, and how to write them** – I will talk through a creative writing exercise that will help the children imagine unique characters and place them into intriguing settings. Then taking their character, we will explore the world they inhabit, and the stories they have to tell. Towards the end of the workshop, I will encourage students to read their characters and their stories to the whole group.

For further information please contact me: [juliepikeauthor@gmail.com](mailto:juliepikeauthor@gmail.com)



**Book sales** - I ask for copies of my book to be available and on sale in school on the day, or beforehand, so that I can dedicate them personally. Which reader doesn't love a book signed especially for them by the author? It's a great way to encourage reading and to boost your local bookshop, but if you can't work with your normal supplier let me know as my publisher OUP Children's can help.

**Location and Cost** - As part of the book's promotional tour, my travel expenses will be funded by my publisher, OUP Children's. Therefore, I am happy to travel anywhere in England and Wales during the autumn term 2019, at no charge to the school. As I work Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesdays, school visits can be arranged for Thursdays or Fridays.

From January 2020 onwards, I will begin charging for events, in line with the Society of Authors recommendations. Half Day sessions will cost £300 (plus travel expenses) and Full Day sessions will cost £450 (plus travel expenses).

**Ahead of the Visit** - In order to get the most from my visit, and for it to have a more lasting impact, I would encourage you to read part of *The Last Spell Breather* in advance with your students. To facilitate this, I can arrange for the publisher to send you a proof copy, or I can email you a pdf of the first two chapters. You could also discuss possible questions, which the children might like to ask on the day. Please do let parents know that I'll be coming into school and that copies of my book will be available to purchase on the day. I will also bring a copy of *The Last Spell Breather* for the school library, so that all students have the opportunity to read the story without needing to make a purchase.

I would value the chance to discuss the details of my visit in advance with the organising teacher or librarian.

**On the day** - Please could you provide a screen and a clicker, so that I can run my PowerPoint presentation which I will bring on a memory stick. I'll also need a flipchart with pens. For the workshops each student will need paper and writing materials. I require a member of staff to be present with the students throughout the event and to help organise the book signing. I'd be most grateful if you could provide me with some water to drink, and a hot drink on arrival. If the event is over lunchtime, I'll bring something to eat.

Please feel free to take photographs, however I politely ask not to be filmed giving my presentations or workshops, or for the events to be recorded in any way.

**After the visit** - Do let me know in advance if you'd like me to provide follow-on activities for you to use with the students. If you'd like to post any photos on social media please do tag me and my publisher on twitter - [@juliepike](https://twitter.com/juliepike) and [@OUPChildrens](https://twitter.com/OUPChildrens).

I'd be delighted should you wish to share any comments or provide a testimonial about my event.

For further information please contact me: [juliepikeauthor@gmail.com](mailto:juliepikeauthor@gmail.com)

