

AUTHOR INTERACTIONS AND SCHOOL VISITS

VARSHA SESHAN
AUTHOR
CREATIVE WRITING TRAINER



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Varsha Seshan is an award-winning children's book writer. She has been shortlisted for the AG-Bangalore Literature Festival Award 2023, the Scholastic Asian Book Award (SABA) 2016 and 2018, the Singapore Book Award in 2019 and the Neev Book Award 2021. She also won the Juggernaut Travel Writing Contest 2018. She is a certified British Council trainer, and has worked extensively with parents and children through reading and creative writing workshops.

A post-graduate in English literature from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, Varsha has won two medals for Shakespeare studies.

A few of her recent books for children are *Fishbowl*, *Red Eyes*, *Uncontrollable*, *Dhara's Revolution*, *The Clockwala's Clues*, *Sisters at New Dawn* and *The Prophecy of Rasphora*.

Find out more about her at www.varshaseshan.com

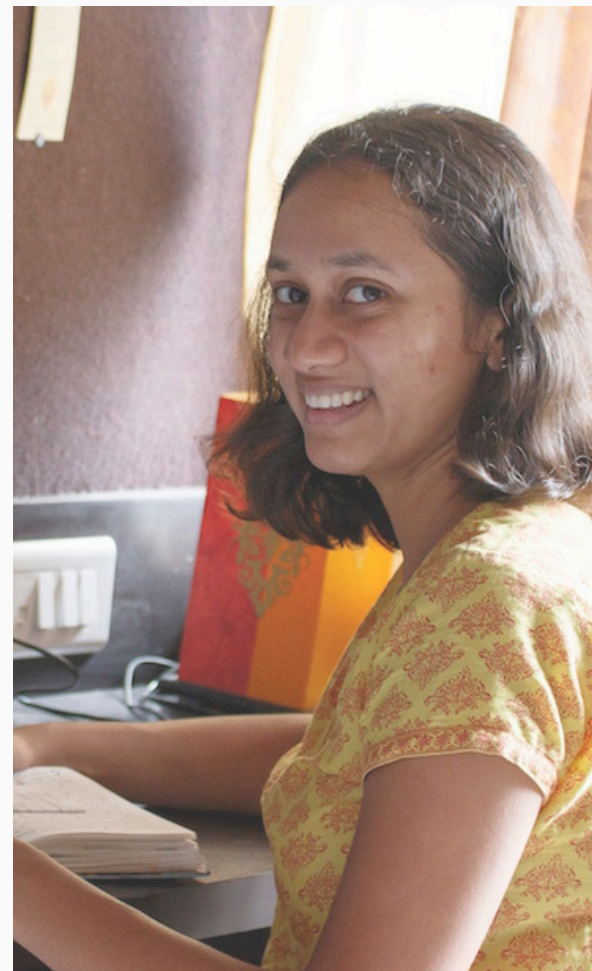
FEES

In Pune: ₹5,000 per session (45 minutes to 1 hour), or ₹15,000 per day for a maximum of four sessions in a day, plus transport.

Outside Pune: ₹15,000 per day for a maximum of four sessions in a day, plus actuals (transport, accommodation, etc.).

Age-group: differs from book to book; details listed below

Small groups (20-30 children) are preferred, but I am open to addressing larger batches too.



THE CLOCKWALA'S CLUES

Puzzles

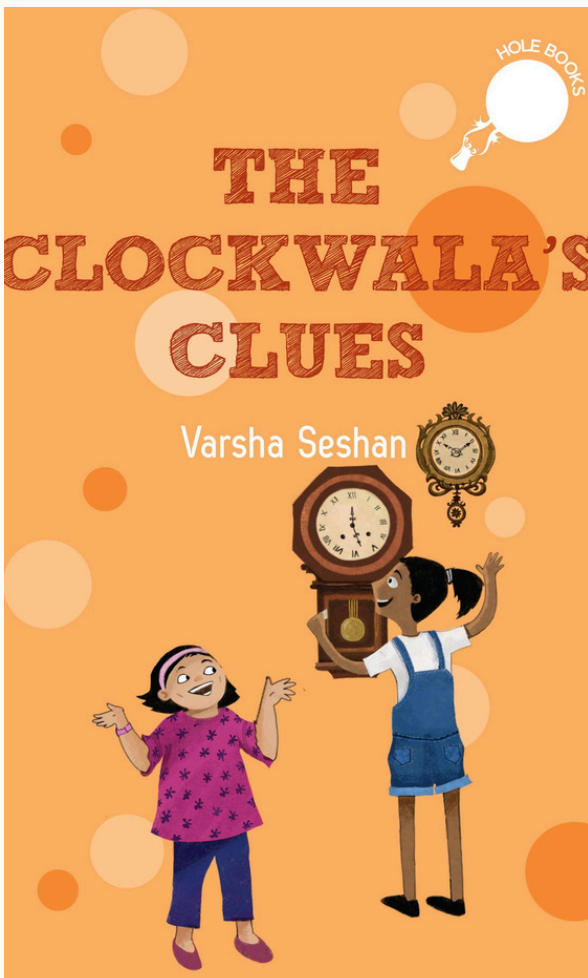
Jasmine and Sheba love puzzles. Do you? Can you solve a set of puzzles about clocks and time?

Tongue Twisters

If two witches were watching two watches, which witch would watch which watch? How fast can you say that? Have fun with Clockwala Uncle's tongue twisters, trying to say each tongue twister faster and faster every time you try!

Create a Rhyming Puzzle

Puzzle poems are fun to solve and fun to create. Let's see if we can create one of our own together!



TIME FOR PUZZLES!

Grades II to IV

Overview:

It's about time for puns about time! Race against the clock to solve Clockwala Uncle's puzzles and riddles. Play with tongue-twisters and explore idioms about clocks, watches, and all things time.

DHARA'S REVOLUTION

Revolutionary Ideas

If you want to create change, what would you do? Some of you may want to have the right to choose what uniform they wear. Others may want more screentime. What do you want? What is something that you want to do that you aren't allowed to do?

Let's Vote!

Election fever has gripped Dhara's school, Sarvaloka Public School. Let's read an excerpt from the book and then cast our votes. What team do you believe in? When we vote, the majority wins.

Election Campaign

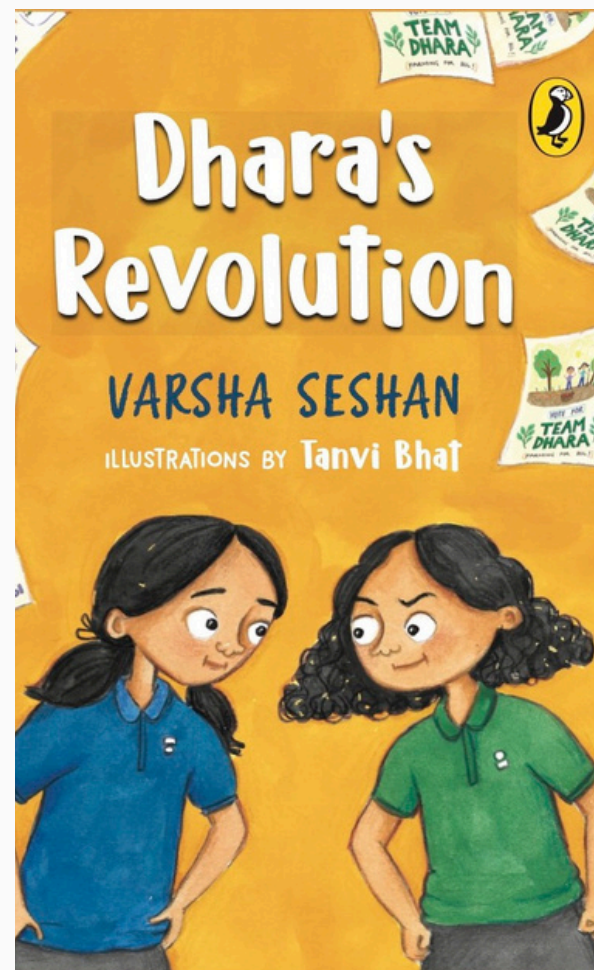
If you could change five things about your school, what changes would you make? Next, how would you convince your teachers that these changes are required? Brainstorm, and then create an election campaign, persuading the students of your school to vote for you.

DO SOMETHING RE-VUH-LOOSHINARY!

Grades III to V

Overview:

Can you challenge yourself to do something revolutionary? Explore voting and word games, and create an election campaign along with Dhara, Carol and the students of Sarvaloka Public School.



DRAGONFLIES, JIGSAWS AND SEASHELLS

Jigsaw Puzzles

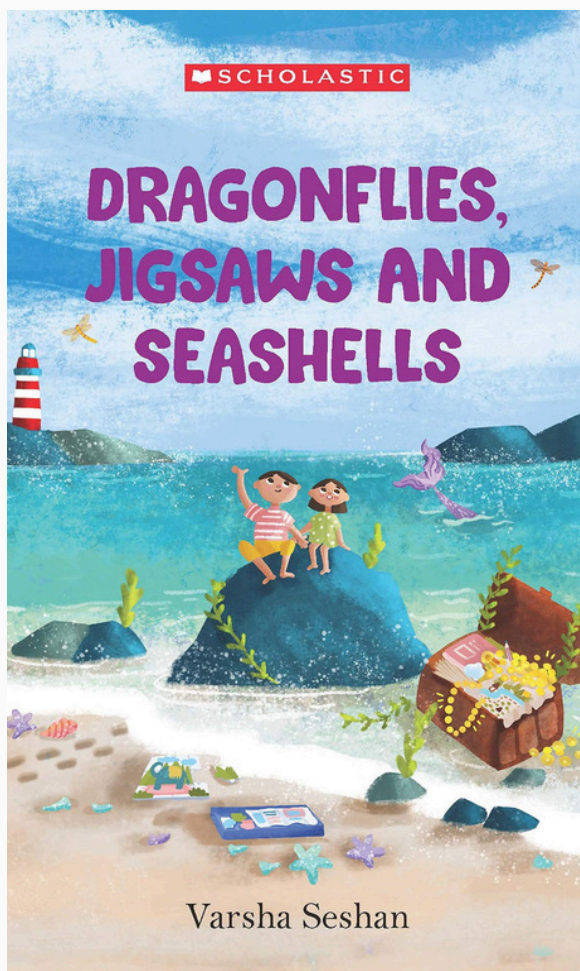
Whether online or offline, jigsaw puzzles are great fun! Let's solve a puzzle together before we meet Aniket, a jigsaw puzzle whiz!

Music

What happens when we strike glasses with different levels of water? Let's find out as we explore the jaltarang, Saima's favourite musical instrument.

Sharing

Can two children create art together? We'll brainstorm ideas and then attempt to create a rhyming poem (or several!), not on our own, but with a partner or two.



STORIES OF ALL KINDS

Grades III to V

Overview:

Rural, urban, fantastical – our worlds are full of stories. Let's explore a few as we read about a magical creature collecting seashells, a boy befriending a bird and a colour-blind girl triumphing in art class.

THE BEST IDEA OF ALL

Discussion

Antara and Tarini want to play Holi, but they learn that the state is facing the worst drought in 40 years! What can they do? What would you do in their place?

Natural Colours

If the space permits, we can join Antara, Tarini and Saira as they make their own natural colours!

If not, we will make a chart on festivals and the environment. What impact do festivals have on the environment? And what can we do to be more responsible?

The Best Idea of All

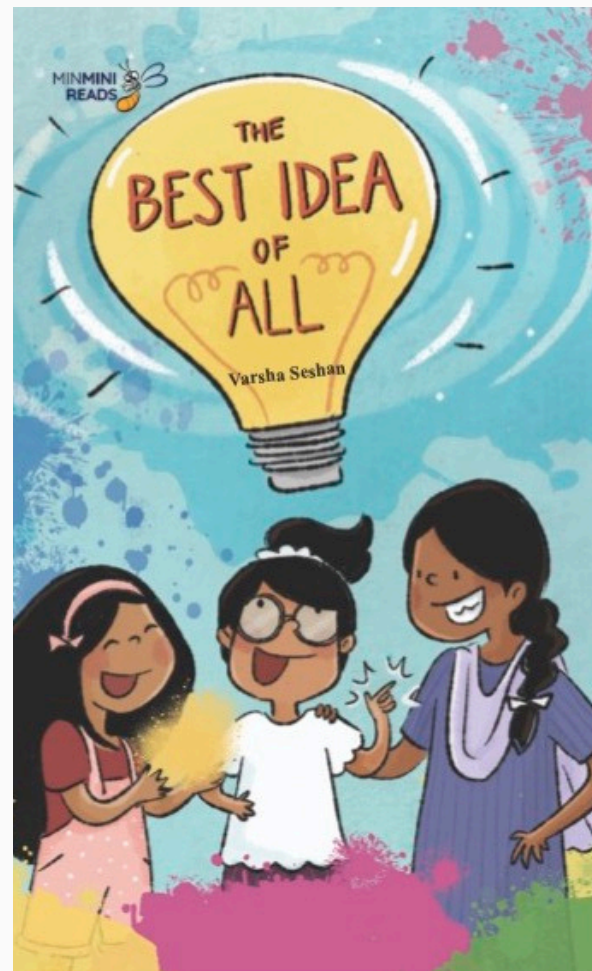
What would you invent if you were the smartest person in the world? Get wacky as you come up with unique, mind-bending, world-changing ideas. Let's look at crazy inventions and discoveries that changed the world.

FESTIVALS AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Grades III to V

Overview:

Can Holi be Holi without water? What can eight-year-olds do to make their festival as special as before? Join author Varsha Seshan to find out.



THE WALL FRIENDS CLUB

Clubs

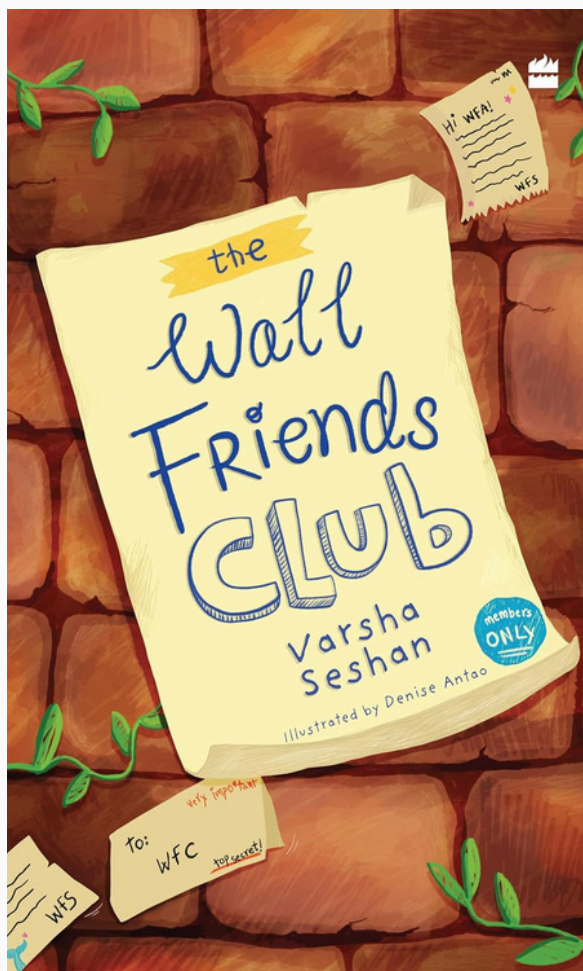
Have you read books about clubs? What do the clubs do? If you set up a club, what would you call it? Who would be part of it? What would you do?

Writing Letters

Anandi and Sriya are becoming the best of friends, but they have never met! What would you write to a stranger? Let's write a letter together!

Code-Making and Code-Breaking

Sriya is a master code-maker! What about you? Can you solve a cryptogram? Write and decipher messages in code as you explore the book!



DEAR READER ...

Grades IV to VI

Overview:

Have you ever written or received a letter? If you found a letter written by a stranger, would you reply? Engage in some old-fashioned letter-writing with author Varsha Seshan, as you explore *The Wall Friends Club*!

THE PROPHECY OF RASPHORA

Language Games

From cryptograms to creative word games, there's a lot to explore when you encounter a new language. Can you decode the prophecy of Rasphora?

Environment

What environmental problems do you think people living in the hills face? What do you think we can do to save the hills?

Arts and Culture

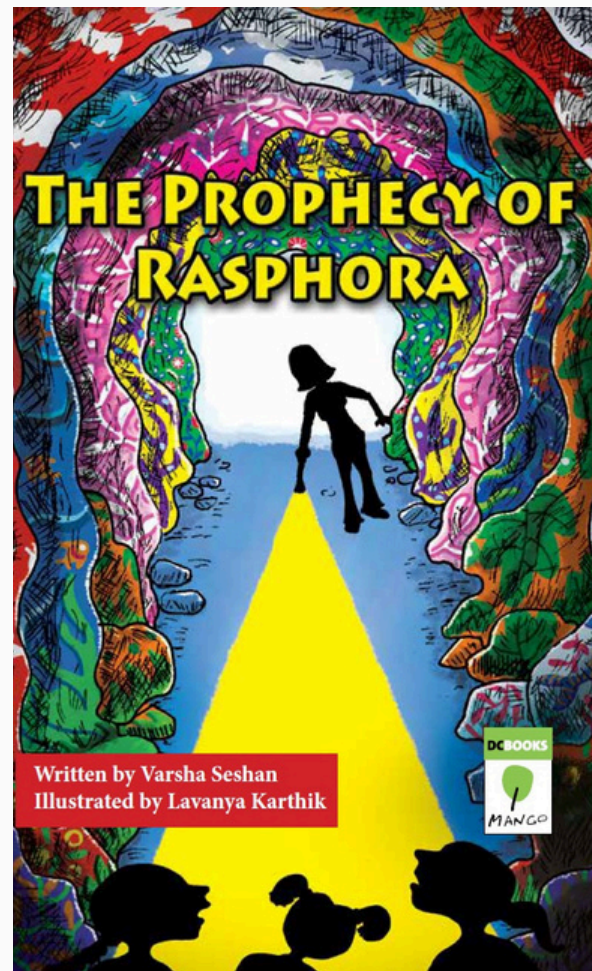
Rasphora is a beautiful land behind a waterfall, a land full of paintings and stunning art. With technology at our fingertips, we can explore art, not Rasphora, but other worlds of art, architecture, and culture.

WORDS AND WORLDS

Grades IV to VI

Overview:

You've discovered a land behind a waterfall. What's the first problem you'll face? You're hungry and afraid, and you can't speak the language of this new land! Play word games and discover the magic of the hills as author Varsha Seshan reveals the prophecy of Rasphora.



SISTERS AT NEW DAWN

Themes

Sisters at New Dawn touches upon several big themes, such as family, adoption, bullying and fitting in. What would you do if you were bullied? When a bully knows a dangerous secret, what choices do you have?

Brainstorm

Imagine you received your timetable and had to choose subjects you don't recognise. What would you choose? And what subjects would you add to the list?

Write a poem!

The sisters Kannagi and Padma grow to love New Dawn with its odd subjects and unique methods. Are there any weird places you love? Let's do a guided written activity on a strange place you love!



WELCOME TO NEW DAWN

Grades V to VIII

Overview:

Just how crazy can New Dawn, the strange school with weird subjects be? Come explore this loony school with Varsha and her ideas, themes, and characters. It might just be the best school of all.

RED EYES

Book Discussion

Do you think human beings have the right to capture animals and study them? Red Eyes asks this question, as well as many others. Let's discuss what it means to be one with nature, forge friendships and fit in.

What happens next?

Veer spots a pair of red eyes in the forest—intelligent red eyes that he's sure no one knows about. Beginning with an excerpt from Red Eyes, use your imagination to continue the story in your own way.

Descriptive Writing

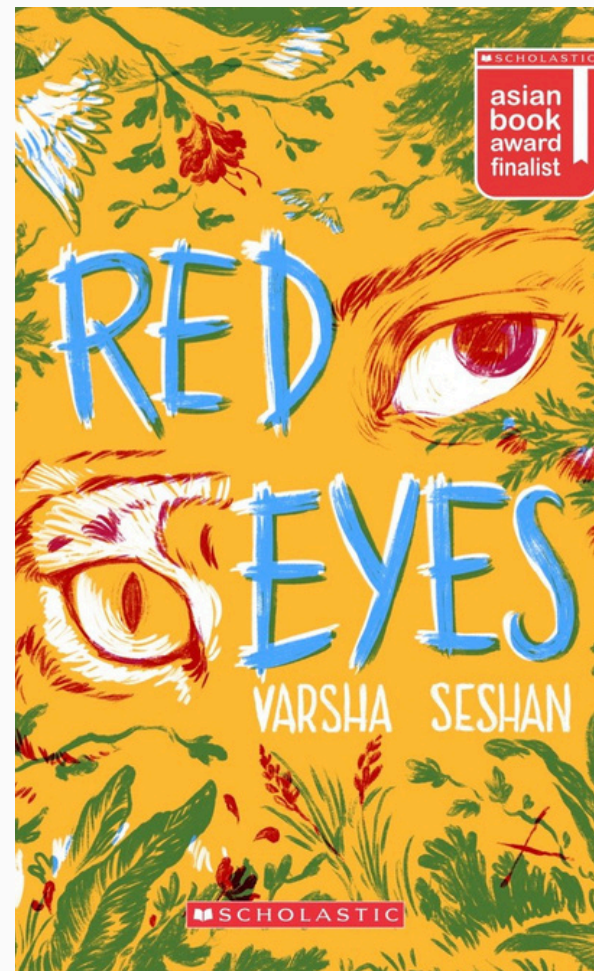
Veer is a city boy, who visits the forests of Suryanagar for the first time. With him, explore the sights, sounds and smells of the jungle. What would you notice if your senses were on high alert? Together, we will write a poem that explores our senses.

JUNGLE MANIA

Grades V to VII

Overview:

When Veer runs away from boarding school to the forest of Suryanagar, he doesn't know what to expect, but he's determined to fit in. With him, let's explore the wonders of the jungles of central India and what it means for a city boy to live amongst people he does not know.



FISHBOWL

Book Discussion

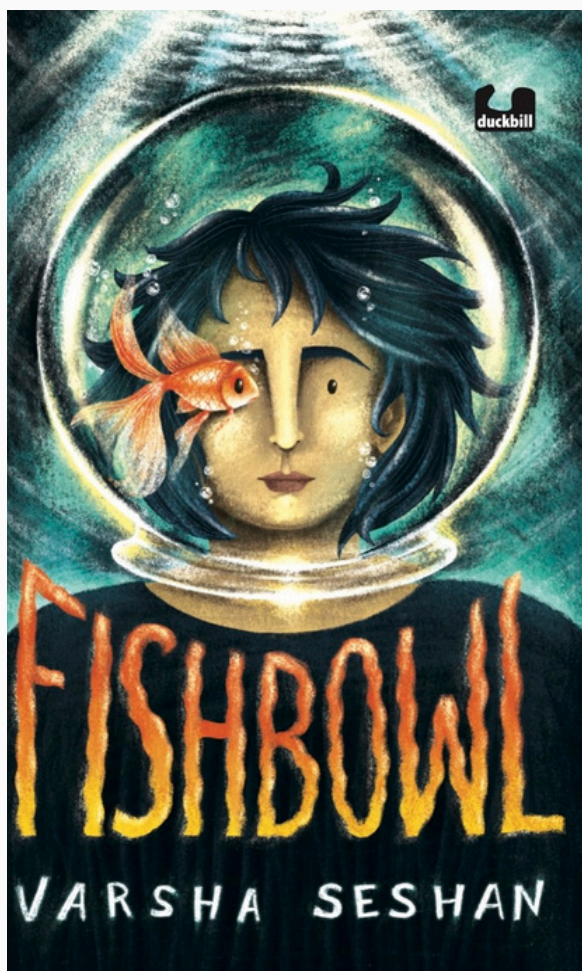
What is free verse? What is a verse novel and what makes it different from prose? There are only a handful of Indian verse novels, making the exploration of this genre an exciting new experience.

Poetic Forms

A verse novel is a great way to explore poetry. From concrete poetry to free verse, let's explore the ways in which poems are written. We will also explore the use of metaphors, repetition and more.

Writing Poetry

One of the most enjoyable forms of poetry is free verse. What makes free verse different from prose? How can we write it, paying attention to the poetic rather than the prosaic?



A DEEP DIVE INTO POETRY

Grades VI to IX

Overview:

Fishbowl, a middle-grade novel in verse, touches upon themes of mental health, friendship and family. Dive into poetry with author Varsha Seshan and discover how minimal text might just be the best way to tackle big themes.

UNCONTROLLABLE

Book Discussion

What is poetry, and why do people write it? What is a verse novel?

Novels in verse are few and far between in India. Let's look at this emerging form and examine why authors and readers enjoy it.

Portal Fantasy

A wardrobe, the Faraway Tree, a Portkey, or even a strong gust of wind—all these have served as gateways from one world to another in literature. With a reading from *Uncontrollable*, let's explore how we can make the feeling of going through a portal come alive to the reader, before going on to create a fictional portal of our own.

Writing Poetry

Using two excerpts from *Uncontrollable* as mentor texts, we will write a pair of poems, exploring an emotion, or perhaps something fantastical.

FANTASTIC ESCAPADES

Grades VI to VIII

Overview:

Uncontrollable, a sparsely written fantasy in verse, is the story of 12-year-old Rohini, who must uncover one secret after another to fight a government of evil and save her mother. Join author Varsha Seshan as she takes you to Kallua, capital of the Powered World, with a reading from her book followed by a poetry-writing activity.



AUTHOR INTERACTIONS

Meeting and interacting with authors and illustrators expands horizons. Especially when schools want children to develop the habit of reading, they must create an atmosphere that makes reading exciting. Literature fests and author events go a long way in making this happen. When schools encourage children to read an author's books before an interaction, the children are eager to share their reviews, questions and perspectives. Additionally, when schools make copies of an author's books available for purchase either before or after an author visit, children race to get autographs, making reading a thrilling escapade. This creates a reading culture in the school, which can take children a long way on their individual journeys with books!



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