



# My Family and Other Romans

*Author Events and Workshops with Marie Basting (KS2+)*

Chicken  
House

## Assembly, Festival or Larger Audiences

### **Rome Play! *A Fun, Interactive Presentation***

How do you take history and myth and mix it up with live action role play (LARP) to create a hilarious timeslip adventure? Marie Basting will reveal all:

- See exclusive photos of Marie's bad haircuts as you learn about her writing journey;
- Explore Hadrian's wall and find out where you can visit Marie's favourite Roman toilet;
- Test your knowledge of bizarre and disgusting Roman facts;
- Banish self-doubt by discovering your inner LARP warrior as you join the battle of the war cries;
- And find out just how easy creative writing and following your dreams can be when you defy the limits others put on you, fire your imagination and mix things up! (Can be adapted to include a creative writing challenge.)

## Creative Workshops - suitable for Festivals, Schools, Bookshops or Libraries.

### **Mixed-Up Mythology!**

*My Family and Other Romans* provides a unique spin on classic Roman mythology. Inspired by the weird and wonderful characters in this timeslip adventure, you'll work with author Marie Basting to create your own unique Roman god or mythical creature. You'll then draw them on a Roman scroll and tell us some key facts about them in the form of a *Wanted* poster before using the information on the scroll to write the opening to your own mythical story!

### **Roaming around Rome - *Create Your Own Timeslip Adventure***

With an emphasis on descriptive writing, children will be invited to travel back to ancient Rome to create their own time slip adventure. Through fun exercises, Marie will fire imaginations and equip children with the tools to ensure their stories have all the ingredients of a classic fantasy adventure. (Schools will receive additional plotting and editing resources.)

### **Writing Inspirations - An Extended Q and A With Writing Tips and Challenge**

For schools who wish to engage larger groups in creative writing activities, Marie offers an extended creative writing and publishing question and answer session. After encouraging children to ask questions about reading, writing and publishing, Marie will talk more about her own writing inspirations and how story ideas and creativity are there for the taking if we just open our eyes and ears and ignore self-doubt. She'll then set a writing challenge based on one of her short stories. She'll also give the group some writing tips and leave them with a range of resources to help complete their story back in the classroom.

*"Marie's events are funny, engaging and informative, perfectly pitched at primary school children to both entertain and inform. Feedback from teachers and pupils has been enthusiastic and positive, and I'd wholeheartedly recommend her events to inspire creativity, smash down stereotypes and build historical knowledge, all while having fun!"*

**Wonderland Bookshop, Retford**







## About My Family and Other Romans



### A laugh-out-loud Roman Adventure for Fans of Loki and Who Let the Gods Out

Silvia just wants to fit in. So, being catapulted back to Ancient Rome and finding out her mum is a war goddess is not part of the plan.

As for the rest of the family - her sister is a cyclops, her uncle is building an army, and her role-play obsessed dad is now a lava soldier.

Can Silvia embrace her differences and sort this mess out?

- . A laugh-out-loud family caper full of excitement and heart.
- . Time-travel adventure – with a LARPing twist.
- . Perfect for ages 8 and up

## About Marie Basting

Marie Basting writes funny fiction for children. Her debut novel, *Princess BMX*, was listed by the Guardian and BookTrust in their best new books category and was praised by Gender Collect as one of the best books out there for smashing stereotypes.

A former Associate Lecturer at Manchester Met University, Marie has taught creative writing from foundation through to MFA level and has extensive experience of schools outreach. Her #BeMoreBMX school and festival events have inspired thousands of children to smash stereotypes and defy expectations.

*"Fun, engaging and interactive talks filled with disgusting facts and little known information about the Romans, as well as inspiring discussion about life as an author and finding your inner warrior. There was such a buzz from the pupils attending!"*

**Schools Engagement Lead, Waterstones Altrincham**

*"It was brilliant and I would highly recommend it to all schools. Marie is fabulous!"*

**Tami Wylie, Teacher, Holy Cross Primary School, Oldham**

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