**Why chose Debra?**

Debra’s presentations are fun and interactive with lots of props, bringing literature alive for students, and as an award-winning author, Debra can pass on writing tips and skills with students, in an effective and engaging way, for them to be able to carry over into their own work.

Debra’s books fit nicely with the NSW Department of Education’s *Wellbeing Framework,* they touch on resilience and understanding yourself and others, as well having curriculum links to English, HSIE and PDHPE. Her picture books are highly awarded and on the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

**About Author Talks:**

Debra’s 30-60 minute author talks for K-6 are playful and lively, celebrating the joy of books, giving insight into the writing process, and inspiring students' imagination. Talks also incorporate themes of recognising and dealing with strong emotions like fear and anxiety, as well as reflecting on compassion and understanding others.

**About writing workshops:**

In her writing workshop for upper primary classes, Debra engages students in developing their own unique fictional character as a way of finding plot and exploring many essential story elements. Students will practice concrete tools to:

1. Make characters come alive on the page – no more one-dimensional characters.
2. Craft character driven plots – no more hapless characters reacting to circumstances.
3. Hook the reader with narrative questions to propel them through the story.

***Plus:***

The writing process, including all those ‘chores’ of drafting, editing, rewriting and polishing, are reframed as creative play – just like LEGO - and brought to life using real life author examples.

Debra uses *The Scared Book* as a launch pad to discuss aspects of character and writing technique, having students interacting with and examining elements of her picture-book character.

This hands-on workshop involves readings, discussion, drawing, writing exercises and role plays, inspiring students to create their own fictional character. Optimal timing is one and a half hours.

***At the end of any visit, students are given the opportunity to purchase signed copies of Debra’s books.***

**More about Debra:**

Debra is a social worker who morphed into an author. Her diverse writing style is showcased in her two picture books – When I See Grandma is a gentle, quiet story following a traditional structure, and The Scared Book is loud and edgy, nudging on metafiction. She also has flash fiction and short stories published in anthologies and magazines. Debra has an MA in Children’s Literature and is a book reviewer and blogger. Find out more at [www.debratidball.com](http://www.debratidball.com) and email Debra to book a visit Debra.j.tidball@bigpond.com

**What teachers are saying:**

*Fabulous content and perfectly pitched to this class. They were engaged and inspired. Thank you.*

Year 4 teacher, Terry Hills PS. Writing workshop.

*Perfect balance of learning and humour.*

Kindy teacher, Orchard Hills PS. Author visit.

*Thank-you again for the wonderful writing and book focus session held here at St Kevin’s Dee Why… we very much appreciated and enjoyed your engaging writing session and expertise as a writer.*

Assistant Principal, St Kevin’s Catholic School Dee Why

*Debra Tidball was our visiting author for our recent Book Week celebrations. She spoke with children in Years 3-6…Debra engaged the children so well, involving them meaningfully as she spoke about why she wrote the book... The session was very well received by children and teachers alike with one Year 5 teacher beside me commenting, "She is very good ..." and Debra is! I would recommend her to any school...."*
Teacher-Librarian, Toongabbie Christian School.

*Debra engaged the children in songs, dancing and games about the two stories including finding monsters and collecting flowers for Grandma. The children and educators were enraptured with Debra’s stories and her story telling, she used humour and props to immerse the children in the story telling experience. Thanks, Debra for bringing our book week to life!*

Jenny’s Kindergarten, Padstow