

Upper Primary Years 5-6 Here's the Plan

Tue 13, Wed 14, Thu 15 May | Turei 13, Wenerei 14, Taite 15 Mei

DAY 1 TUESDAY 13 MAY | TUREI 13 MEI

UPPER PRIMARY YEARS 5 & 6, 10.00AM-2.25PM

Note: Doors will open at 9.30am and students will be ushered into their venues; the first sessions start promptly at 10.00am.

10.00am	-	10.45am	Hunua Room	Jessica Townsend
10.55am	-	11.40am	Hunua Room	Steph Matuku
11.40am			Lunch & Book Signing	
12.30pm	-	1.15pm	Hunua Room	Anders Sparring & Per Gustausson
1.25pm	-	1.55pm	Hunua Room	Antony Elworthy
1.55pm			Finish & Book Signing	

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY 14 MAY | WENEREI 14 MEI

UPPER PRIMARY YEARS 5 & 6, 10.00AM-2.25PM

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1.55pm			Finish & Book Signing	

DAY 3 THURSDAY 15 MAY | TAITE 15 MEI

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1.55pm			Finish & Book Signing	

TRANSPORT FUND ENQUIRIES

Schools are encouraged to apply for grants towards travel costs to increase accessibility to the Schools Programme. Please find more information about the Schools Transport Fund on page 7, including the [link to the Application Form](#).

The deadline for applications is **5pm Friday 7 March 2025**. Any questions should be sent to schools@writersfestival.co.nz

Upper Primary Sessions: Years 5-6

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A Wondrous World JESSICA TOWNSEND

Immerse yourself in the mystical universe of *Nevermoor* and the adventures of Morrigan Crow with *New York Times* bestselling author **Jessica Townsend**. Readers around the world have been eagerly awaiting the fourth book in the series, *Silverborn: The Mystery of Morrigan Crow*, and this is your chance to hear directly from the author about Morrigan's next adventure. Together you'll discover the secrets of Jessica's writing process, hear about when and why she wanted to become an author, and how she continues to grow the wondrous world of *Nevermoor*.



Mighty Magic STEPH MATUKU

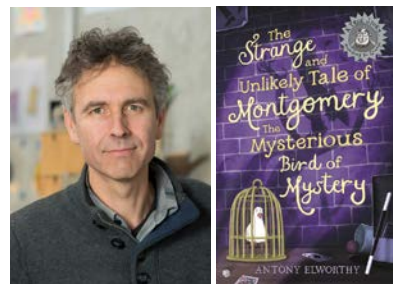
With secret trapdoors, a robot dog and a flock of frustrated sheep, *Whetū Toa and the Secret Spies* is fizzing with hilarity and intrigue. Author **Steph Matuku** (Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga) is an award-winning author who creates stories that are brimming with fun and wacky adventures. In the latest book in Steph's *Whetū Toa* series, Whetū is living back at the farm with her mother, magical animals and the Mighty Mikaere, a magician whose magic tricks are being stolen – and it's up to Whetū to solve the mystery! Join Steph as she shares stellar stories from her series and advice on how to write a page-turning adventure with a whole lot of humour.



So Fun, It's Criminal! ANDERS SPARRING & PER GUSTAVSSON

The Pinchers are a proud family of villains, going back three generations. Son Theo loves his family, but he just doesn't fit in; he cannot lie or cheat to save his life! This witty, energetic series about one very law-abiding child born to a family of robbers combines adventure, silliness, and the familiar day-to-day of family life with hilarious results. In this laugh-out-loud session with live illustration, author **Anders Sparring** and illustrator **Per Gustavsson** join us from Sweden to discuss how they work together as an author/illustrator duo and how to craft a gripping heist story.

Supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers.



Tall Tales ANTONY ELWORTHY

Gramps can tell a tall tale, but this one might be the tallest yet. Let your imagination run wild with author, illustrator and animator **Antony Elworthy** as he introduces his wacky debut novel *The Strange and Unlikely Tale of Montgomery, The Mysterious Bird of Mystery: (A true story... according to Gramps)*. Gramps insists on regaling his grandson with bizarre stories from his younger days, but his most exciting, and discombobulating, career was when he was a magician. In this interactive session, draw along with Antony, find out what inspired him to write this quirky tale and learn how he tells stories through illustration.

Upper Primary Sessions: About the Authors

Jessica Townsend

Jessica Townsend lives on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. Her pet fascinations include public transport, ancient cities, hotels, opera singers, Halloween, secret societies and gigantic cats – all of which have weaseled their way into *Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow*, her award-winning first novel released in 2017. This record-breaking and *New York Times* bestselling series continues with *Wundersmith: The Calling of Morrigan Crow*, *Hollowpox: The Hunt for Morrigan Crow* and *Silverborn: The Mystery of Morrigan Crow*.

Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow was the biggest-selling Australian children's debut since records began and has won countless book awards.

Steph Matuku

Steph Matuku (Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga) is an award-winning author of stories for young people. As well as short stories, plays and articles, she has written eight books: *Flight of the Fantail*, *Falling Into Rarohenga* and *Migration* for young adults; the junior fiction series *Whetū Toa*, and picture books *The Eight Gifts of Te Wheke* and *The Dream Factory* – all published by Huia Publishers.

Two of her books have been translated into te reo Māori, two were finalists in the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, and six were Storylines Notable Books. She has mentored for the NZSA and Te Papa Tupu writing programme, and her screenwriting credits include *Mystic*, *Under The Vines* and *Shortland Street*.

Anders Sparring & Per Gustavsson

After trying out different professions in the 90s, **Anders Sparring** finally ended up writing scripts for children's television in 1999, and has been doing that since. While being on parental leave (with a baby that slept all the time), he started writing his first book for children. He made his debut in 2012 and a few years later he met Per Gustavsson during a book-day at Natur & Kultur. In 2017 Anders and Per launched the first book of their *Pinchers* series. During this time Anders also did some standup-comedy, which has influenced the *Pinchers*. Anders' main objective is to make books that are funny.

Since Anders' original trade is scriptwriting it was natural for him to start thinking of the *Pinchers* in terms of adaptation for film and television. The TV-show premiered in 2021 and the feature film premiered in November 2023.

Per Gustavsson has been active as an author and illustrator since 1995 when he debuted with the book *Stoppa bollen*. He has written and illustrated over 30 picture books and has collaborated as an illustrator on more than 100 books. He has received several prizes and awards such as the Heffaklumpen, Crime time award, the August Prize and the Elsa Beskow Plaque. He has also been nominated for Sweden's most famous literary prize, the August Prize. Since 2019, he has been a member of the jury for the ALMA Prize, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

Antony Elworthy

Antony Elworthy is an illustrator and animator, working on television and feature film productions in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world. His many film credits include Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride*, *Coraline*, *Ma Vie de Courgette*, *Kubo and the Two Strings* and Wes Anderson's *Isle of Dogs*. Recent adventures include a spell in Portland, Oregon as Lead Animator on Guillermo del Toro's *Pinocchio*, and some time spent in Switzerland where he was Animation Director on *Sauvages!*, a film by Claude Barras. Antony lives in Christchurch, with his wife and four sons, where he has been Animation Director on hit pre-school TV show *Kiri and Lou*. Currently he is co-directing a *Kiri and Lou* feature film, due for release in 2026.