

School, Library and Festival Presentations and Workshops for 2017

as Megan Rix



I write children's books under two different names – Megan Rix and Ruth Symes. The website for Megan Rix is www.meganrix.com and for Ruth Symes it is www.ruthsymes.com.

All of the Megan Rix books are published by Puffin and have activities packs that go with them that can be downloaded from the Megan Rix website.

I'm happy to work with small groups or large ones and have often spoken to whole schools and over 1000 children at a time at literary festivals. As well as the book talks listed below I've given prize giving day talks and end of term motivational speeches.

I need a computer, projector and screen to show power-point slides, preferably with sound, in all cases. I can provide the presentation in advance on a USB stick or via email

If the school / library / festival is happy for me to do so I will bring along one or two of my dogs (golden retrievers) to demonstrate the work that assistance dogs do.



Whichever book/books are my main focus the second half of my talk, before the Q and A, is always about my own writing process and tips for how the children can develop their own writing. As well as any writing competitions (usually with animal charities) that I'm currently involved with.

World War Two Books



For my WW2 books (3 so far with a forth one about Winston Churchill and his pets to be published in the summer) I come in costume and bring along an evacuee's suitcase with some props including a warden's helmet and whistle.

I can concentrate on one particular book of my three WW2 books or give a more general talk about them all. I talk about my own dogs and my dog

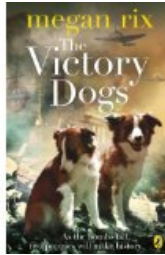
training background that inspires all my books as well as the animal recipients of the Dickin medal after WW2.



The Great Escape is set in 1939 right at the beginning of the war when there was a mass panic and lots of pets were put down [we obviously don't see this happening in the books].

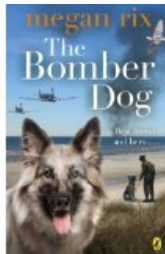
Dogs, Buster, Rose and cat Tiger escape this fate and make their way to Devon where the children whose pets they are have been evacuated.

- Runner-up in the East Sussex 2013 children's book of the year award.



The Victory Dogs is set during the Blitz and is about two puppies born in a tunnel of the London Underground who go on to become search and rescue dogs.

- Winner of Stockton-on-Tees children's book of the year 2014.

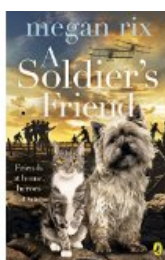


The Bomber Dog is set around the time of D-Day. It's the story of German shepherd Grey who becomes a parachute dog and gets separated from his handler when they make a daring jump in France.

- Winner of Shrewsbury children's book of the year 2014.
- Shortlisted for the Red House book award.

World War One Books

For my WW1 talks I come in costume and bring along some props including a Princess Mary Christmas tin which was given to all the allied servicemen and nurses at the front in 1914.



A Soldier's Friend is set at the start of the War in 1914.

It's the story of a cat with attitude called Mouser and a small dog, called Sammy, who get sent to the front. Sammy loves playing football and plays in the Christmas truce.

- Nominated for the 2015 Carnegie medal



The Runaways is set in 1917

Tells the story of a circus elephant called Shanti who is sent to work on a farm. Only no one's told the farmer she has a baby elephant that needs her. Luckily there's a helpful circus dog called Harvey...

Other Historical Books:



The Great Fire Dogs is about a kitchen dog called Woofer and his best friend Tiger Lily - the pampered pet of King Charles the second. As the great Fire of London rages through the streets the two friends run for their lives.

Coming soon: Out in August 2017 'Winston and the Marmalade Cat'.

Assistance Dog Books:

For my assistance dog books I come in my Helper Dog trainer clothes complete with whistle and clicker, dog toys, and treats. Plus one of my own visiting therapy dogs to demonstrate. Sometimes I also bring along a fully trained assistance dog and their partner.

The talk also works perfectly well without a dog there if the school / festival would prefer not to have a dog present.



The Hero Pup is the story of Patch from newborn puppy to fully trained mobility assistance dog and of Joe, the boy who helps to train him.

Echo Come Home is about a stray dog that's trained as a hearing dog that gets stolen and has to find his way home. I use one of other of my dogs to demonstrate how a hearing dog helps a deaf person by alerting them to different sounds. I wear hearing aids myself in both ears and so am particularly keen to share my experience of this with the children.

Booking:

I can be booked direct via my website or megan.rix@me.com or through the agency Authors Aloud (authorsalouduk.co.uk). My fees usually start at £150 per presentation (1 hour) plus travel expenses. A morning visit, which could consist of 2 presentations or workshops, would be £250 and a whole day £400.

Testimonials:

'Will you please pass on my thanks to Megan. She was stunning and the kids loved her.' Geraldine D'Amico, organiser of the Folkestone Literature Festival

'Well done for an astonishing show. I must congratulate you for an epic presentation at Cheltenham Literature Festival.' (Children from Cam Woodfield Junior school, Oak Class)

'I never liked reading until one day I was in Waterstones and I picked up some books. One was called The Bomber Dog. I loved it so much I couldn't put it down' Luke, 8

'I swear this is the best story I have ever read in my entire life' Rashmi, 10

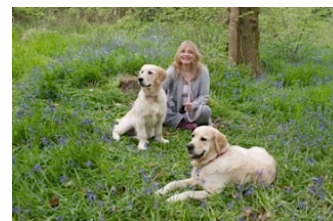
'A perfect story for animal lovers and lovers of adventure stories' Travelling Book Company

Workshops and events for adults as both Megan Rix and Ruth Symes

As well as writing children's books I've also written for adults and for TV and radio. Academic qualifications: Master of Arts in Film & TV Script Writing and Diploma in Script Writing from UCLA.



The Puppy that Came for Christmas is my Sunday Times bestselling memoir, written as Megan Rix. It tells the story of our family's experience of being puppy parents for Helper Dogs.



I've taught adults who want to write children's books (for the Arvon Foundation, Middlesex University and Leicester University – both long and short courses).

I was the resident children's book writing coach for the Richard & Judy Show (Channel 4) and one of their write a children's story competition judges,

I've also run courses on writing for TV and radio as well as story adaptation workshops for the Society of Women Writers and Journalists.

I've given talks at universities for Reading Zone and Just Imagine as part of their Read to Inspire and Reading for Pleasure events highlighting the importance of children's reading to student teachers and teachers from partner schools.

I would be happy to run a session on one of the following areas. To include a presentation and advice for would-be writers followed by a Q and A session.

- 'Introduction to How to Write Children's Books'

As I write as Ruth Symes as well as Megan Rix I've had books from picture books, early readers, children's novels to adult books published. This session would cover the books for each age group and how to write them.

- 'Writing for radio and TV'

I've written for pre-school TV (The Hoobs on Channel 4) and animation as well as adapting a story for Radio 4. My treatment for Frankie's Romeo (one of my books written as Ruth Symes) won a PAWS (Peoples Awareness of Science) drama award and was optioned by Rocket Pictures

I adapted a short story 'Sun Moon and Stars' for Radio 4

- 'Writing a memoir.'

This would be based on my experience of writing my Sunday Times bestselling memoir 'The Puppy That Came for Christmas' written under the pseudonym of Megan Rix.