Shamini Flint

AUTHOR VISIT ▪ PRIMARY SCHOOLS

"I've rarely seen anyone so totally delight, engage, inspire, and win the hearts of a group of seven to eleven year olds." **– Morris Gleitzman**



Shamini Flint is a Malaysian-born author of over 50 books for children and adults. She splits her time between Singapore and Sydney as she is also a practising corporate lawyer. She has a PhD in English (with Creative Writing) from the University of York and has taught both law and creative writing at Singapore's leading universities.

Her bestselling ***Diary of a…*** series and ***Ten*** are published by Allen & Unwin. She is an enormously experienced speaker, having presented at schools and festivals across Australia, Asia and Europe.

Years 1 – 2 Picture books

Endangered animal picture books – *Turtle Takes a Trip*, *Jungle Blues* and *Panda Packs Her Bags* use endangered Asian animals to tell fun, colourful tales with deeper lessons about nature, home, belonging and being yourself.

The Sasha books – Fifteen books follow Sasha around Singapore and on to cities across Asia and beyond.

Talk: Turtle Takes a Trip Shamini talks about where the ideas for books come from and what inspired her series of environmental picture books. She tells the story of *Turtle Takes a Trip* – a leatherback turtle's long journey back to the beach where she hatched. She ends by talking with children about the everyday things they can do to look after animals and the planet.

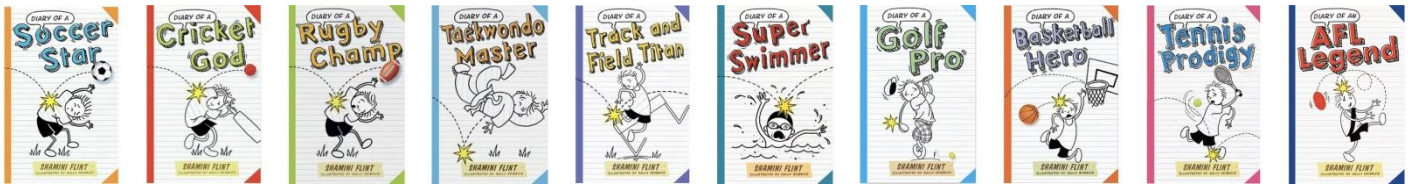
Workshop: Sasha's Journeys Shamini introduces Sasha – a real child whose own adventures inspired the series – and explains how the idea for the books began. Then the children become authors and illustrators, writing and drawing their own pages with themselves as the main character, on a journey to their favourite places.



Years 3 – 4 The *Diary of a…* series

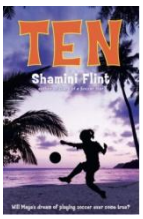
Marcus Atkinson is a maths whiz who is hopeless at sport. His dad, a self-help author, is convinced Marcus can achieve anything he sets his mind to – with hilarious results. Across ten sports, from soccer to AFL, Marcus tries, messes up, learns and grows; an eleventh Diary, on skateboarding, is coming out in May 2027. *Diary of an AFL Legend* is used in the NSW school syllabus as a core text for Stage 2.

Talk: The *Diary of a…* Series A laugh-out-loud and interactive talk on writing: where authors get their ideas, how they weave their own experiences into their books, what inspired the Diaries and how Shamini uses her children as sporting guinea pigs. Shamini explains why Marcus isn't actually very good at sport – but always does his best – and asks the big questions: do authors put messages in their books, and what soccer team does she support? **Themes:** Trying new things. Overcoming fear of failure. Perseverance, self-belief and learning from mistakes.



Years 5 – 6 *Ten*

Malaysia, 1986. Ten-year-old Maya lives for soccer – but her brother prefers hockey, the girls at school say it's a boys' game, and her grandmother just wants her to be a 'good Indian girl'. Maya is determined to become a professional player anyway. The only problem? She's never even kicked a ball. Used in the Singapore Primary 5 English curriculum, nominated for Singapore's Red Dot Award and shortlisted for the Hedwig Anuar Prize. A sequel, *Eleven*, is in the works.



Talk: *Ten* How do writers turn their lives into stories? Shamini reveals how *Ten* is both autobiographical and imaginary, explores where ideas come from, and reveals her secret writing superpower. Along the way she talks about cultural differences, gender norms, growing up in Asia, resilience and self-realisation – and the difference between a happy ending and a hopeful one.

"Shamini is a wonderfully entertaining and engaging presenter. Her sense of humour is a particular highlight."
Janet Gibson, Primary Teacher Librarian, Canadian International School, Singapore

"The way [Shamini] connected with our readers from the littlest to the Y10s as well as us teachers was simply out of this world."
Tanja Galetti, Chatsworth International School

Suitability: Years 1 – 6	**Talks:** 40–45 min + 15 min Q&A	**Price:** Please enquire for pricing
Workshops: 60 min, smaller groups	**Requirements:** Data projector, microphone	**Books:** Sales and signings available

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