

ELENA AREVALO MELVILLE



Umbrella (2019)
Elki is not my Dog (2024)

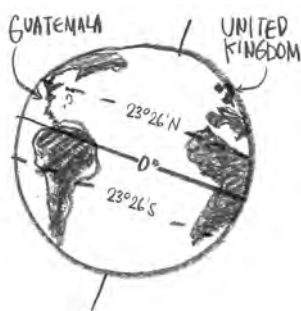


Elena Arevalo Melville is a latin american award winning **author and illustrator** born in Guatemala, who came to children's publishing rather the long way, across the Atlantic, via architecture and fine art. Her internationally published work deals with themes of belonging, community, identity and resilience.

Her picture book **Umbrella** won the inaugural *Queen's Knickers Award*, was endorsed by Amnesty International, included in Empathy Lab collection and nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal, and others.

Elena has an MA (with distinction) in Children's book illustration. Elena is fully bilingual (English and Spanish) and is happy to run her events in either language.

Elena runs storytelling and creative workshops in schools, libraries, festivals and exhibitions in the UK and abroad. Her main goal is for all participants to **express and enjoy themselves** through the wonder of books and playing with a **range of materials and activites** to question and to explore and to create. Elena would love to work with you to inspire children in your school!



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Scallywag Press

EVENTS

ELENA
AREVALO
MELVILLE

Assembly presentations, creative workshops and interactive readings with Q&A.

Storytelling (EYFS-Reception)

A fun and engaging reading of a picturebook involving sound, repetition and movement.

Wishes Together workshop (KS1/2)

In her award winning picture book *Umbrella*, an ordinary looking yet magical umbrella grants those in the park what they need, in the spirit of empathy and community. But perhaps not everyone in that park has understood how it works...

Explore the world of *Umbrella* where the magic of sharing comes alive. Following a reading of the book, Elena will guide you through some steps to draw and write your empathy driven wishes onto card. Elena cannot make wishes come true, but in this magical workshop, she hopes to make your wishes come together.



Any age depending on type of session

30 max for live workshops

Up to three sessions per day including
one whole school assembly

Live or virtual

£150 for one session (+travel expenses)

40 minute KS1 and under
60 minutes KS2 and over



For more details and resources:
www.elenaarevalomelville.com

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TESTIMONIALS

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"Storytelling at its best! Many thanks to Elena for providing an inspirational, inclusive assembly for our school. "

—Aimee Durning MBE, Director of Inclusion and Community, UCPS

"Elena's event for us as part of Fabula Festival in 2023 was fantastic. So engaging for kids and grown-ups alike, with a really interactive and playful feel. Elena has proven herself to be adaptable to a range of ages and their different needs, and we'd be delighted to have her back in the future. "

—Discover Children's Story Centre

"Elena gave a thoroughly entertaining presentation using her "Umbrella" book. She fully involved all her audience members with her approach to encouraging children to illustrate and write their own books. Children from ages 4-8 were kept busy for well over an hour. A really fun and informative session."

—Willingham Library 2023

"We recently used the wonderful picture book Umbrella to launch our school Book Week. The children were instantly engaged by the eye-catching illustrations and the magical theme of the umbrella. It was the perfect way to introduce topics such as empathy, sharing and diversity through the magic of storytelling. We had a wonderful morning of Umbrella related activities; the book inspired drama, art, dance and creative writing. We loved sharing it. "

—Claire Witney, English Coordinator, Great Chesterford Primary Academy 2021

"Anything is possible when someone opens this special umbrella. Helpful for perspective-taking as children think about what each character needs. And how a touch of magic might help."

—Empathy Lab Primary Guide 2021



"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for coming to the Linton children's Book Festival and giving such stimulating performances. The kids (and the parents) absolutely loved your sessions!..."

—Linton Children's Book Festival 2014



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