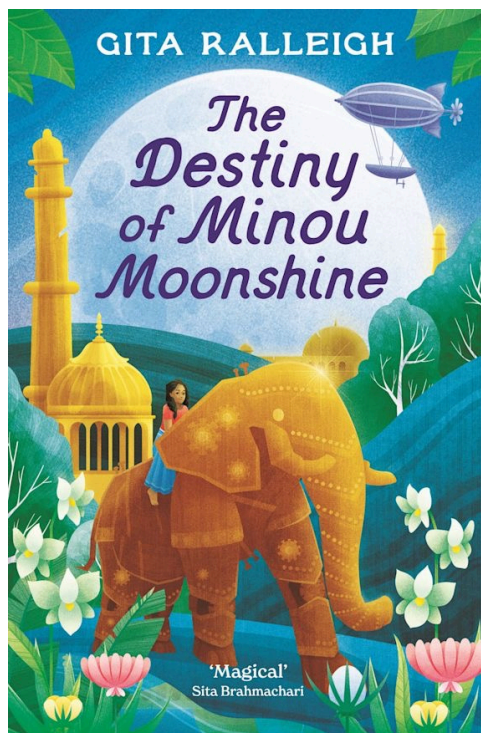


Author Visit Information

Gita Ralleigh



Longlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2024

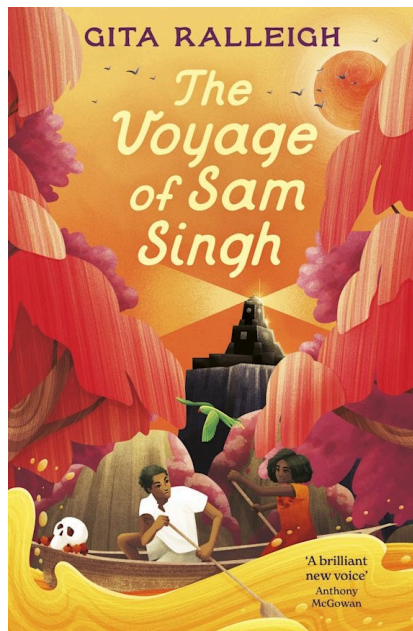
Longlisted for the Diverse Book Awards 2024

Shortlisted for the Tower Hamlets School Library Service Book Award 2025

‘A remarkable debut...poetic, imaginative and gripping.’ — Imogen Russell-Williams, *The Guardian*.

‘[A] charming fantasy... with the focus on faith, fate and fighting for what is right.’ — *BookTrust*

‘The evocative, boldly drawn plot and setting is redolent of the best of Pullman... There is more to come from Gita Ralleigh... and storytelling such as hers should be very much welcomed by mature primary- and lower secondary-school readers and their teachers.’ — Ben Harris, *Just Imagine*



The Week Junior Book of the Week

Longlisted for the Fantastic Book Award (Lancashire School Library Service) 2025

“A rich, bold historical fantasy for 9+” — Imogen Russell-Williams, *The Guardian*

‘Packed with action, excitement, lyrical descriptions and thought-provoking insights into our colonial history, this is a beautifully written, rich and rewarding read’ — Joy Court, *Books for Keeps*

“An enthralling story of bravery, adventure and hope.” — *The Week Junior*

‘Plunge into the fantastical world of Sam Singh where spirit roams the land, clifftops rise against the water and the faint scent of the colonial past lurks... A delightful and thought-provoking read in every way.’— Radhika, aged 9, *Books Up North*

About the Author

Gita Ralleigh grew up reading fantasy adventures that took her to faraway lands. The closest she came was on family holidays to India, where old palaces, ice-capped mountains, monkeys and elephants were part of everyday life. After a career as a medical doctor, she did an MA in Creative Writing, winning the 2013 Wasafiri New Writing Prize and she has published poetry books for adults (*Siren, A Terrible Thing, Empirical*) as well as her two children’s novels. She lives in London and teaches creative writing to undergraduates at Imperial College. Gita enjoys giving poetry and writing workshops in schools, universities, libraries and other community settings and has spoken at the Hay Festival. She is one of the Poetry Society’s ‘Poets in Schools’ and is DBS checked. Website: gitaralleighauthor@wordpress.com Instagram @gita_ralleigh

Visit Options

90-Minute Visit

- Interactive assembly/presentation
- Meet the Author/book signing
- £120 including two free signed books

Whole Morning or Afternoon Visit

- Interactive assembly/presentation
- Meet the Author/book signing
- Up to three class workshops tailored to the school timetable
- £250 including four free signed books

Workshops

Year 4 - 8

- Poetry workshops on themes including haiku and tanka, animal poems, science poems, mythical beasts and festivals.
- Short story workshops focused on storytelling technique as below.
- Interactive assemblies with themes including fantasy world building, island adventures and retelling myth, folklore and fairytale.

Year 9-13

- Poetry workshop themes include 'Your Voice Counts', 'Poetry for the Planet' & 'Poetry for Well Being'.
- Interactive assembly on the importance of reading, writing and creativity to future achievement.
- Short story workshops with themes including worldbuilding, storycrafting and retelling myths and fairytales.

Custom Workshops

- Designed around school requirements (e.g., National Poetry Day, Culture Day, Diwali, STEM)

Testimonials

Teacher, Blair Peach Primary School: "It was truly a pleasure to welcome you to Blair Peach. The children enjoyed the workshops immensely — they were completely engaged, inspired and excited about poetry throughout. It was wonderful to see their creativity flourish and they have certainly continued talking about the experience."

Teacher, Mission Grove Primary School: "It was wonderful having you come to Mission Grove and work with us all. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it! Woodpecker Class are currently creating a display for their 'In My World' poem."

Head of English, Northwood College: "Thank you so much for today! The activities were

fantastic and so valuable to the girls. They really enjoyed your sessions. Thank you also for your patience with the Q&A afterwards – it is always good for the girls to hear how Science and Humanities can positively collide, I think!”

Teacher, Featherstone High School: “The students and staff within the sessions had great feedback on the sessions, so thank you very much again for your time, and we hope to be able to work with you again in the future for either Culture Day or Arts week.”

Head, Maundene Primary School: “Gita, thank you so much for leading the assembly and workshops for our children. We appreciate everything you did for this day and for being so prepared. It was a great day.”

Head, Millbank Gardens Primary School: “Dear Gita, the children absolutely loved your assembly this morning. They were enthralled, and I do not think that I have ever seen such eagerness to ask questions.”

Librarian, Ealing Fields Secondary School: “Gita, thank you so much for yesterday. It was a huge success and such a joy that you were our author for World Book Day here!”

Head of English, Francis Holland School: Gita, thank you so much for coming in today. The students were so engaged, and I've had really positive feedback! One of the maths teachers said that they were still very excited to share their ideas.”

Librarian, Osmani Primary School “Our KS2 pupils really enjoyed their visit from Gita. Her presentation, covering her life journey from childhood reader to adult published writer, was fascinating and inspiring.”

Teacher, St Mark’s Primary School “The workshop was exciting for children, informative about the use of poetic techniques and inclusive to a range of needs across the class.”

Teacher, Whiteheath Junior School “We had a fabulous afternoon with Gita at our school. The children loved hearing all about what inspired her to become an author, and how she loved to read and read and read as a child! We can't wait for her to visit again soon!”

Librarian, Queensbridge Secondary School “A fantastic and inspiring visit from Gita Ralleigh. Year 8 came up with some incredible ‘worlds’ which we hope they continue to write about!

Student, Year 7, Whitmore High School “My experience of World Book Day was really fun as we got to meet the authors and ask them questions about their books and to buy some of their books. My favourite author was Gita Ralleigh.”