

Isabel Thomas
Writer and editor

Tel: 07766 104497

isabel@isabelthomas.co.uk

www.isabelthomas.co.uk

Profile

Isabel Thomas studied Human Sciences at the University of Oxford, and is now a science communicator and children's author. She has written more than 130 titles, some of which have been shortlisted for the **Royal Society Young People's Book Prize**, the **ASE Science Book of the Year**, and the **Blue Peter Book Awards**.

Isabel also writes for children's science magazine *Whizz Pop Bang*, and for science outreach projects including www.dementiaexplained.org and **Parents for STEM Futures**. She volunteers as a primary school governor and STEM Ambassador, and blogs about creative early years and primary education for Oxford Education and Oxford Owl.

Career

Author and Consultant

Based in Cambridge, 2010 to present

Author of more than 130 titles, for publishers including Bloomsbury, Oxford University Press, Laurence King, Dorling Kindersley, Collins, Pearson, Quarto and Raintree. Please visit www.isabelthomas.co.uk to find out more. My books have been shortlisted for the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize 2016, The Association of Science Education Book Award 2016, and the Blue Peter Book Awards 2011. I also run events at schools, libraries, and literary festivals.

As a consultant, I take on varied projects from concept origination and development to commissioning and project management. Here are some recent examples:

- Consulting for the Mathematics, Physics and Life Sciences Department of the **University of Oxford**, to create a print and digital resource for the Parents for STEM Futures project.
- Planning and writing a children's website for **Alzheimer's Research UK**, explaining dementia to children and young people (launched November 2015).
- Development of teaching resources and promotional events for marketing departments at **Macmillan Children's Books** and **Lonely Planet Kids**.
- Commissioning and development of large series of phonics titles for **Oxford University Press**.
- Editorial development of an online CPD resource on **Effective Governance** for Oxford University Press.
- Writer for ***Whizz Pop Bang!*** children's science magazine.

A&C Black Publishers, London

Senior Commissioning Editor, 2006 to 2010

Responsible for strategy and development of the educational list. Previously Commissioning Editor, responsible for establishing a new non-fiction/trade list.

Pinwheel Publishers, London, 2006

Editorial Manager/Managing Editor

Led Pinwheel's non-fiction editorial team, creating innovative novelty titles with an educational focus for the US and UK trade, school and book club markets.

Harcourt Education, Oxford

Publisher, Harcourt Global Library, 2005 to 2006

Responsible for the Heinemann Library and Raintree Early Years and KS1 lists, leading a team of five editorial staff to publish curriculum-linked and recreational titles for co-edition markets.

Harcourt Education, Oxford

Commissioning Editor, Secondary Science, 2005

Responsible for managing and developing the Heinemann post-16 and international science lists. Worked closely with partners including Cambridge Assessment and the University of York.

Harcourt Education, Oxford

Managing Editor, Harcourt Global Library, 2001 to 2004

Joined Harcourt on their fast-track graduate training scheme and was promoted to Editor and then Managing Editor. Part of the team that introduced the Raintree imprint into the UK.

University of Oxford, Oxford

Tutor, Human Physiology, 2001 to 2003

Prepared undergraduates from three colleges for Preliminary Examinations. This involved analysis of the syllabus in order to set reading lists and coursework, assessment of written work and helping students to understand topics in depth through discussion in weekly tutorials.

Education

University of Oxford, Mansfield College

BA (Hons) Human Sciences (2:1)

Genetics; animal behaviour; human physiology; ecology; evolution; anthropology; demography; microbiology.

Awarded Oxford University Journalism Scholarship (2000)

Matthew Arnold School, Oxford

A Levels: Mathematics (A), Physics (A), Chemistry (A), Biology (A)

Social media

Website: www.isabelthomas.co.uk

Facebook: @STEMagineering

Twitter: @raisingchimps

Publications

Titles in a series are listed after the series title.

Trade non-fiction and fiction

Whizz Pop Bang! magazine (monthly articles and features)

Biographies: *Leonardo da Vinci / Amelia Earhart / Marie Curie / Nelson Mandela* (Laurence King, 2018)

MOTH (Bloomsbury, 2018)

Terrific Timelines: *Dinosaurs / Cars* (Laurence King, 2017/8)

Create Your Own Christmas (Bloomsbury, 2017)

Self-Destructing Science *Space / Plants and Animals / Body / Machines* (Bloomsbury, 2016 and 2017)

Space Racers: Make Your Own Paper Rockets (Laurence King, 2017)

What on Earth? *Wind / Water (QED, 2016)*

23 Ways to Be an Eco-Hero (Quarto, 2016)

Fairy Tales Today: *Hansel & Gretel / The Emperor's New Clothes* (Curious Fox, 2015)

Pet Projects: *Hamster / Horse / Cat / Dog* (Raintree, 2015)

Stickyscapes: *Polar Landscapes / Tropical Forests* (Laurence King, 2015)

My First Book of... *Horses & Ponies / Cats / Dogs / Baby Animals* (Bloomsbury, 2014)

My First Book of... Diggers / Emergency Vehicles / Ships and Boats / Bikes (Bloomsbury, 2014)
My First Book of... Cars / Trains / Trucks and Tractors / Aircraft (Bloomsbury, 2013)
Zoom Encyclopedia (Dorling Kindersley, 2012)
What You Need To Know Now (Dorling Kindersley, 2010) – shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Awards, 2011
Big Ideas that Changed the World (Dorling Kindersley, 2010)

Educational non-fiction and fiction

Where to Spot Robots (OUP, 2018)
Fantastic Jobs and Where to Find Them (OUP, 2018)
A Journey Through Time (OUP, 2018)
What's it made of? (Collins Big Cat, 2018)
You Are Here! (Collins Big Cat, 2017)
Reading Planet: Dinosaur World Records / The Space Station / Shopping Mischief / Baxter Visits Bow Wow / Explore the World (and Come Back Alive) / My Antarctic Diary / My Turn! (Rising Stars, 2017)
Great Artists (OUP, 2016)
Robot Zoo (OUP, 2016)
Frozen Hotels (OUP, 2016)
Wild Waterfall Adventures (OUP, 2016)
How to Build a House (Collins Big Cat, 2016)
The Mysterious World of Microorganisms (Collins Big Cat, 2015)
The World's First Women Doctors (Collins Big Cat, 2015)
The Misadventures of Charles Darwin (OUP InFact, 2015)
How to Change the World (OUP InFact, 2015)
Science Shocks (OUP Project X Origins, 2014)
Alphabet Fun! / Number Fun! (Raintree, 2014)
When Will the Sun Go Out? (And other Strange Solar System Science) (Pearson Bug Club, 2013)
Dealing with Feelings: Angry / Jealous / Sad / Happy / Proud / Shy / Caring / Worried (Raintree, 2013)
A Time Traveller's Guide to the Future (Collins Big Cat, 2012)

Science education

Animal Rivals: Lion vs Tiger / Elephant vs Rhinoceros / Shark vs Killer Whale / Scorpion vs Tarantula (Raintree, 2017)
Extreme Habitats / xxx (Capstone, 2017)
Animalympics: Gymnastics / Swimming and Diving / Strength and Endurance / Athletics (Raintree, 2016)
Read & Experiment: Forces / Magnets / Materials / Plants (Raintree, 2015)
Read & Experiment: Sound / Light / Electricity / Heating & Cooling (Raintree, 2015)
Pets' Guides: Gerbil / Guinea Pig / Bird / Rat & Mouse / Snake / Chicken (Raintree, 2014)
City Safari: Fox / Pigeon / Seagull / Raccoon / Hedgehog / Rat / Squirrel (Raintree, 2014)
Sci-Hi: Should Scientists Pursue Cloning? / What's the Controversy with Stem Cells? (Raintree, 2012)
Astronaut Travel Guides: Mercury and Venus / Stars and Galaxies (Raintree, 2012)
Radar: Top Jobs Stuntman / Fashion Stylist / Celebrity Photographer (Wayland, 2012)
Extreme Animals: Mammals / Bugs / Reptiles / Birds / Fish (Raintree, 2012)
Radar: Board Sports / BMX Freestyle / Latin Dance (Wayland, 2011)
Inside My Body: Why do I burp? / Why do I have periods? (Raintree, 2011)

Start With Art: *Drawings / Paintings / Collages / Photographs / Prints / Masks / Models / Textiles* (Raintree, 2011)

Real World Data: *Graphing Population / Graphing Food and Nutrition* (Heinemann Library, 2009)

Fusion: *Search and Rescue / Dive! Dive! Dive! / Fireworks / The Day the Earth Stood Still* (Raintree, 2008)

Animals Head to Head: *Lion vs Tiger / Elephant vs Rhino / Scorpion vs Tarantula / Polar Bear vs Grizzly Bear / Killer Whale vs Shark / Alligator vs Crocodile* (Raintree, 2006)

Energy Debate: *Biomass Power / Solar Power* (Wayland, 2007)

Teaching and outreach resources

Mission 8848 teaching resources (Lonely Planet, 2018)

Parents for STEM Futures print and digital resource (University of Oxford, 2017)

www.dementiaexplained.org (Alzheimer's Research UK, 2015)

Official National Non-Fiction November event and teaching resources (Lonely Planet, 2015)

KS1 Resource Pack for *Charlie Cook's Favourite Book* (Macmillan Children's Books, 2014)

Early Years Resource Pack for *The Something* (Macmillan Children's Books, 2014)

World Explorer bookshop event (Lonely Planet, 2014)

Not-For-Parents KS2 Activity Pack (Lonely Planet, 2013)

Online articles and films

Creative ways to learn at home (Ten films for Oxford Owl, link to come)

[Five ways to encourage reluctant readers](#) (Oxford Owl)

[Five ideas to fire up children's non-fiction writing power](#) (Oxford Education)

[The power of stories – National Non-fiction November](#) (Federation of Children's Book Groups)

[Authors and teachers pick a children's book for Christmas](#) (The Guardian)

[Science writing for children](#) (Oxford Today)