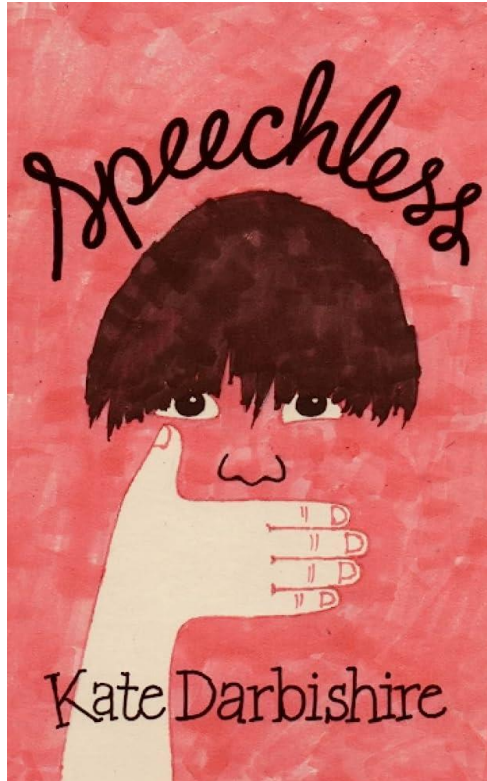


Speechless

Kate Darbshire (b 1962)



She can't walk. She can't even talk. But she has so much to tell you... Eleven year old Harriet has Cerebral Palsy. At her new Secondary School, she is bullied and ridiculed every day and she doesn't know how to make friends. Charlotte tries – but how do you talk to someone who won't talk back?

	Historical Interest
	Cultural Messages
	Sexual Content
	Violence
	Language
	Controversial Issues

Speechless

Kate Darbshire (b 1962)

- **Kate Darbshire** worked as a Teaching Assistant in Special Needs Schools, helping lots of other youngsters with various needs. In 2003 – 2006, with four young children at home, Kate attended Bath Spa University, studying Creative Writing and Education. Her only regret is not opting for just Writing as it soon became apparent that Education as a future career was no fairytale!
- **She said** 'I wanted people with Cerebral Palsy to have a book where they could see themselves.'
- **Did you know?** One of her daughters, who has Cerebral Palsy, couldn't walk at four years old and had no speech. She had used sign language from nine months but made almost no noise at all. Kate took her on an amazing speech and language course and finally realised how to help her speak. It was a slow process, but now that little girl is twenty. She can walk and she never stops talking.



St Ives School Tutor Reading: Routine

Ready

Respectful

Safe



- Ready – arrive promptly and settle quickly at the start of the session
- Respectful – listen, in silence, to their tutor and visiting adults reading
- Safe – follow instructions from staff, first time every time, including tracking the text with their reading ruler, and sitting with good posture