

Karima Turay Davis

A music and booklover who works at the Newham Bookshop



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Karima was born in Sierra Leone in Africa. As a teenager, she lived in many West African countries. Karima first came across the Newham Bookshop when she visited her aunt in England during her school holidays. Her parents were well-educated and held important jobs in Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Karima graduated with a housing and construction degree from the University of Westminster and later studied Cultural Studies.

As a child, Karima's uncle shared poetry with her on a mountain and her grandmother told her stories at home. They both influenced Karima's love of storytelling. She didn't spend much time outside and felt that her friends were the characters in Roald Dahl and Enid Blyton's books. During the whole month of September, Karima wears yellow clothes to pay tribute to Roald Dahl's birthday month.

As a book lover, it wasn't surprising that Karima started to work part-time at the Newham Bookshop. One of her favourite spaces inside the bookshop is 'Philosophy for kids'. It is a liberating and powerful topic for young minds to dive into. Karima always encourages children to read whatever they are interested in, and if they can't find a book they want to read, to write it themselves!

The bookshop has been a sanctuary for many families in Newham. It isn't only a place to buy books, but also a place to talk, listen and share. Many parents and children come in to talk about pressure at school and exams. Karima strongly believes that independent bookshops and libraries are crucial to a thriving community and society.