



Beverley Birch Online workshop for schools



Virtual author workshop for schools

A sequence of 3 short videos to introduce the themes and inspirations of *Song Beneath The Tides* using background stories, visuals, short readings, ideas and questions to engage students.

VIDEO SESSION 1 (13 mins): Introduction to my writing, *Song Beneath the Tides* - how I came to write it, childhood and inspirations in Africa.

Link to video 1: <https://vimeo.com/674433835/1a3fd6b3bd?share=copy>

VIDEO SESSION 2 (24 mins): underlying themes and ideas:

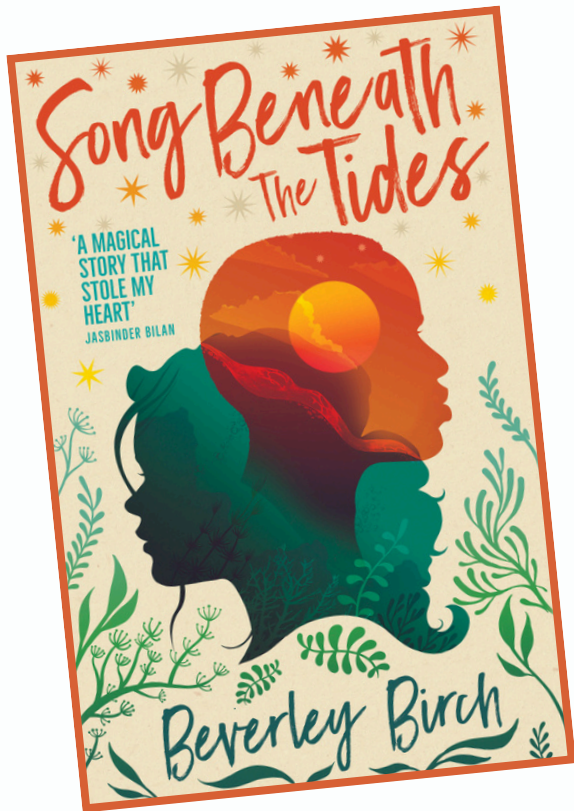
- o the history: ancient Swahili cities and their ruin, Portuguese explorations, colonialism.
- o land grabbing, conservation and environmental community struggles.

Link to video 2: <https://vimeo.com/685834954/8efefbe2f3?share=copy>

VIDEO SESSION 3 (3.25 mins): Fire up your imagination: creative writing idea inspired by *Song Beneath the Tides*.

Link to video 3: <https://vimeo.com/686271710/79140c79cf?ts=0&share=copy>

(PLUS FINAL VIDEO by request, to answer any questions about the book, writing, or a writer's life. Please email me at beverley@beverleybirch.co.uk)



Ally arrives from England with her brothers to stay for a month in eastern Africa – weeks of running wild on an unspoiled and untamed coast.

But on her first walk through the forest, she is swamped by the sense of a presence, ripples of an unseen life brushing hers.

Then Leli, a local teenager, sweeps her into the world of his village.

Swiftly, he becomes the centre of her life, yet when the sacred island of Kisiri is threatened and tensions in the village rise, everyone conspires to divide them.

Secrets whisper a warning to them both: are Ally and Leli hearing haunting echoes of the past, or an immediate threat from the present.

‘a rich and gripping novel ... at its heart a story about hope and the importance of working together ... a unique and fresh story for YA readers’ **THE SCOTSMAN**

‘stunning and sophisticated combination of romance and mystery’ **READING ZONE**

‘a thrilling adventure with important things to say, superbly written’ **JUST IMAGINE**

‘lyrical yet urgent’ **YOUTH LIBRARIES GROUP**

‘compelling, atmospheric and beautifully written’ **WRD ABOUT BOOKS**

‘a tender love story that turns eerie, fierce and political, with a strong message about community and resistance’ **LIZ FLANAGAN**

‘a magical layered story that stole my heart’ **JASBINDER BILAN**

‘brilliant, lyrical and portrayed with a nuance that captures the beauty, history and contradictions of present day Africa’ **ADAMMA OTI OKONKWO**