

Karen Comer – MWF26

by Alannah and Raya 8E.

As part of our English EPP (Enhanced Performance Program) subject, we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to listen and learn from many high achieving local authors at the Melbourne Writers Festival. When we first arrived at the State Library, which the event was held at, there were many schools who had come far and near to experience this incredible day.

There was one author who really caught our eye and drew us into their book and speech immediately, it was Karen Comer. Karen shared interesting information about her books titled '*Once Upon Tomorrow*' and '*Sunshine on Vinegar Street*'. She elaborated on how she got her books published and where these ideas came from. She spoke about how she develops ideas for her books and explained how learning to handle rejection can help you grow as a writer.

She worked on '*Sunshine on Vinegar Street*' for over 10 years, revising the plot many times. Even after repeated rejection, she kept going and never gave up on her dream. Karen explained that when she first tried to get her books published, she sent her stories out to twelve publishers. In the end she managed to come out with ten rejections and two publishing offers. One offer for '*Once upon Tomorrow*' and one for '*Sunshine on Vinegar Street*'. In the end Karen managed to reach this goal she had spent most her life on for ten years, like she said "working my way through this foggy forest to reach my dreams" showing she was never going to give up.

The other area Karen spoke about was the importance of 'ideas'. A piece of advice she shared with everyone was that letting your mind take over and to add a spin on your story will help you as a writer. Overall, Karen Comer's experience taught us that success in writing comes from determination, imagination, and the ability to keep going despite setbacks that you may face along the way.