



WRITING WORKSHOPS

Presentations and workshops for KS3 students offered by author, Julia Edwards
(as at January 2024)

A. Introduction to *The Scar Gatherer* series

Julia begins most of her workshop days with a whistle-stop tour through history, introducing *The Scar Gatherer* series. This lasts about an hour and features an abundance of quirky and fascinating facts from history. It also offers the students the opportunity to test their historical knowledge in a format that is fun and engaging. There is no limit on numbers for this session.

B. A fresh approach to story writing: using characters as a springboard for plotting

Every good story follows a set of basic rules which can be understood and applied by anyone from 8 to 108. This workshop shows students how to create a convincing character from which they can draw out a compelling plot. This workshop includes a short film clip, so requires access to audio visual equipment (the film clip will be supplied on a USB drive).

C. Dialogue

This workshop covers the technical aspects of writing dialogue as well as tips on how to write convincing dialogue which will help students lift their characters off the page.

D. Setting

This workshop teaches students how to evoke setting more effectively in their writing, and shows them how setting can be used to build dramatic tension and define character. It uses a short film clip as a stimulus (supplied on USB drive), so requires access to audio visual equipment.

E. Inference

This workshop is based on Julia's short story collection, *Unlucky for Some*, and includes inference practice but also a task which approaches inference from the perspective of an author, to help the students bring more subtlety to their writing.

F. Editing

This fun workshop tackles editing head on. This part of the writing process – equally applicable to creative, opinion, and informative pieces – is one that many students find difficult. Elements covered by the workshop include spelling and grammar, but also style, economy of expression, realistic dialogue, and the impact of different vocabulary choices.

G. Register

Choosing the correct language for the audience of a piece of writing, and sustaining a formal register when required, are elements of the writing process that cause difficulties for adults and children alike. This workshop helps students to understand the contexts in which different registers are used, and to identify and use different levels of formal and informal language correctly.

H. History at the coal face: an introduction to the techniques and challenges of historical research

Julia draws on her experience of detailed historical research for *The Scar Gatherer* series to outline the techniques and sources available to the historical researcher as well as the challenges a researcher is likely to encounter. This workshop also explores how some of these challenges vary from one historical period to another.

All eight of the above workshops take about an hour. All of the workshops involve a written element of some kind except for the whistle-stop historical tour (A).

For more information about Julia Edwards' school visits, please visit www.juliaedwardsbooks.com.