



# WRITING WORKSHOPS

Presentations and workshops for KS2 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 children the opportunity to test their historical knowledge in a format that is fun and engaging. There is no limit on numbers for this session and it's well suited to all KS2 ages.

## B. Historical literacy workshops (for up to 30 children at a time)

There are seven historical literacy workshops, based on the periods explored in the seven *Scar Gatherer* books. Each workshop starts with a discussion of the chosen historical period and follows on with activity worksheets for the children to do using the *Scar Gatherer* books. These workshops are adaptable for any year group from Year 3 to Year 6. The topics available are:

- Romans
- Vikings
- Tudors
- Great Fire of London
- Slave Trade
- Victorians
- World War Two

These workshops do not require the children to have read any of the *Scar Gatherer* books and Julia has a set of fifteen copies of each title for the children to use, sharing one between two.

## C. Dramatic tension

This is a fun drama-based workshop in which volunteers re-enact Little Red Riding Hood to identify what we mean by dramatic tension, and how it works. There is no limit on numbers for this workshop, and it works well with all KS2 ages. A simplified version is also available for KS1.

## D. A fresh approach to story writing: how characters create their own plot

This workshop shows children 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).

## E. Tense

This new workshop helps children to identify tenses and understand which tense they should use for different kinds of writing, with a particular focus on the use of tenses in story writing.

## F. Dialogue

There are two possible workshops about dialogue:

- one workshop covers the technical aspects of writing dialogue as well as tips on how to write convincing dialogue which will help children lift their characters off the page;
- the other workshop shows children how to use dialogue to move the plot forward. Most suitable for Y4 and upwards.

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### **G. Setting**

This workshop teaches children 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.

There are also three **Deepening Understanding** workshops and a targeted workshop for SATs, most suitable for Y5 and Y6. These are:

### **H. 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 children bring more subtlety to their writing.

### **I. Editing**

This workshop covers spelling, punctuation and grammar, but also style, teaching children to write more effectively and economically.

### **J. Register**

This workshop teaches children how to identify and use different kinds of formal and informal language correctly.

### **K. Answering the 'What impression?' SATs question**

This workshop is also based on Julia's short story collection, *Unlucky for Some*, and guides children through how to answer this 3-mark SATs question, reinforcing their understanding with a writing activity that approaches 'impressions' from an author's point of view.

All eighteen of the above workshops take about an hour, with the exception of the dramatic tension workshop (C) which can be done in 45 minutes. All of the workshops involve a written element of some kind except for the whistle-stop historical tour (A) and the dramatic tension workshop (C).