Workshops for secondary and sixth-form students offered by author, Julia Edwards
(as at September 2025)

A. A fresh approach to story writing: how characters create their own plot
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 convincing characters 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).

B. 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.

C. 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.

D. 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.

E. Register workshop
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.

F. Editing workshop
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. History at the coal face: an introduction to the techniques and challenges of historical research
Drawing on the author's experience of detailed historical research for *The Scar Gatherer* series, this presentation outlines the techniques and sources available to the historical researcher as well as the challenges a researcher is likely to encounter. It also explores how some of these challenges vary from one historical period to another. Most suitable for KS4 and KS5.

All of the above workshops take about an hour. Julia also offers an hour-long presentation to introduce *The Scar Gatherer* series of historical fiction that she writes, suitable for KS3. This features an abundance of quirky and fascinating facts from history and 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.

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