



**Presentations and workshops for KS2 students offered by author, Julia Edwards
(as at September 2021)**

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 seven *Scar Gatherer* books, though none of them requires the children to have read any of the books. Each workshop starts with class activities to remind the children about the importance of either reading or writing, and follows on with a discussion of the chosen historical period. In the second half of the workshop, the children have activity worksheets 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

C. Stand-alone workshop on dramatic tension

This is a fun 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, as well as Year 2.

D. Story-writing workshops

There are two of these, which can be booked as a pair or individually. They are most suitable for Y4 and older, though a simplified version of each workshop is available for Y3 pupils. The only limit on numbers for these workshops is that the children need to be able to write things down, so generally need to be at a desk. Both workshops include short film clips as a stimulus, so require access to audio visual equipment (film clips will be supplied on a USB drive). The elements of story-telling covered by the workshops are:

- characterisation – how to create a convincing character to engage your reader
- plotting your story – how to keep your reader turning the page

E. Dialogue

There are two versions of this workshop, aimed at helping children to lift their characters off the page. The broader workshop covers thought, action and speech, and shows children how to combine these elements for maximum effect, whilst the alternative workshop focuses more closely on dialogue. Suitable for all KS2 ages.

F. 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.

G. Deepening Understanding

There are two of these workshops, most suitable for Y5 and Y6.

- the first focuses on editing, covering spelling, punctuation and grammar as well as style;
- the second focuses on register, helping children to identify and use different kinds of formal and informal language correctly.

All fifteen of the above workshops take about an hour, with the exception of the dramatic tension workshop which can be done in 45 minutes. However, the historical literacy workshops benefit from a longer session where possible, to give the children the opportunity to get through a good amount of the worksheets.

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