



Workshops for secondary and sixth-form students offered by author, Julia Edwards (as at September 2021)

A. Story-writing workshops

Every good story follows a set of basic rules which can be understood and applied by anyone from 8 to 108. These three workshops provide a clear and simple method for creating convincing characters, a structured approach to plotting a story, and an insight into how to use setting to add an extra dimension to the story. The workshops can be booked as a group or individually, and include short film clips as a stimulus (supplied on a USB drive). The elements of story-writing covered are:

- characterisation – how to create a convincing character to engage your reader
- plotting your story – how to keep your reader turning the page
- setting – how to evoke setting effectively, and use it to build dramatic tension and define character.

B. Dialogue

There are two versions of this workshop, aimed at helping students to lift their characters off the page. The broader workshop covers thought, action and speech, and shows students how to combine these elements for maximum effect, whilst the alternative workshop focuses more closely on dialogue. Especially well suited to KS3 and KS4.

C. 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.

D. 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. This workshop is suitable for all secondary and sixth-form students, but will be particularly helpful for KS4 and KS5.

E. Exam technique for creative writing

This workshop has been designed specifically to meet the needs of GCSE and A-level students preparing for exams which include a creative writing element. It addresses the difficulties faced by students working under exam conditions, such as how to allocate time to different parts of the process, how to marshal ideas under pressure, and how to polish the piece to meet the expectations of the examiner.

F. 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. 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.