



YEARS 5 & 6 WORKSHOPS OUTLINE

Pleased to Meet You

The main character is the life force and the pulse of any story. In this workshop, we learn how to use a range of creative techniques to develop three interesting and original characters. But it's not enough to just create a character, we'll learn techniques which allow us to develop our character's appearance, their personality and their backstory. If you know how to ask characters the right questions, original plots and storylines evolve naturally. This workshop teaches the basics of plot development: we'll explore how the character's goal sets the direction for a story and how we can use this to develop suspense and action. We will also explore the skill of show, don't tell, in regard to developing interesting three-dimensional characters.

Please Note: Through the choice of activities, this workshop can be modified for younger students all the way through to Year 6.

Go Write

Designed to be fast paced and great fun, this workshop is a collection of writing prompts and activities designed to inspire, excite and encourage the creative writer in your students! This workshop combines writing, workshopping, teaching and group discussion to develop both writing skills and a creative mindset. Over the course of the workshop, your students will experiment with a three writing styles:

- Personal narrative.
- Imaginative writing.
- Reflective Writing. (This is an opportunity for students to reflect on their experience of the writing process.)

Along the way, we'll also consider some of the essential behaviours and attitudes required to be a good writer such as learning to pay attention to small details, bringing your five senses to the writing process and the importance of writing regularly. Writers create a selection of story seeds which can be further developed after the workshop. If you're looking for a way to develop a regular writing practice in your classroom, this is a great place to start.

Please Note: Through the choice of activities, this workshop can be modified for younger students all the way through to Year 7.

Out of This World (World Building)

When he was a young boy, C.S Lewis created Animal Land – a strange world of walking and talking animals. The hours Lewis spent writing and illustrating stories about this world, were the groundwork for the Narnia series. Now it's your students' turn to create a fantastical, fictional world. The Volcano Vortex. The Whispering Forest. The Crumbling Cliffs. Who knows where their imagination will take them? During the workshop, students will deep dive into world building as they draw maps and explore the many details that bring a fantasy world to life. Who lives in this land? What language do they speak? What plants and animals will you find there? If your students love drawing, writing and thinking in all sorts of creative and imaginative ways – this workshop is their ticket to travel into the world of fiction! This is also a great workshop if you're looking for an extended writing project. We'll build the fantasy world in the workshop and your teaching notes will guide you through the process of plotting and planning a story in your magical fantasy settings.

Convince Me

From developing personal opinions to understanding what factors and issues engage an audience and persuade their thinking, this workshop is fast-paced, fun and guaranteed to get your students thinking out loud. Your students will combine critical thinking skills with a range of writing techniques to learn how to structure their arguments for maximum impact. I'll introduce students to a simple model that helps them generate ideas and strengthen their arguments.

Successful persuasive writing also engages the readers' senses and imagination too. We'll learn some writing tools, such as sensory imagery and word choice which bring arguments to life. I'll introduce you to a range of issues (such as community, family, environment and more) which impact our lives and our decision making.

Activities are designed to extend children's writing and thinking skills, as well as inspire a love of language and an understanding of the power of words!

The Plot Master

In this workshop students combine the essential elements of a narrative writing; setting, character and plot to create a quest style fantasy story. There is no better way to see how the elements of a story come together than to be fully immersed in the process. As with all fantastical worlds, life doesn't always go to plan. Rather than free fall through all the possibilities for plots and problems and get totally overwhelmed, I've developed a system where writers choose from a range of plot options which scaffolds the writing process. Students have less decisions to make which in turn, allows their creativity to soar. Using an ancient narrative structure, The Rule of Three, students will discover how to build suspense and action within their story. Discovery writing and workshopping enable writers to play with ideas and learn from each other. Writers leave the workshop with a fantasy world, a plot structure (basic plan) and a main character. Teaching notes and additional resources allow teachers to follow up on the workshop. If you're looking for an extended writing project for your students, this is the workshop for you.

Up And Away

When we read a published book, we sometimes forget that the writing has been carefully edited and redrafted many times. We want our writing to sound just like that, but our best efforts often leave us flat. Don't despair. There are some simple (but very effective) writing skills that quickly transform a piece of writing from good to great. In this workshop, we'll focus on word choice, developing sensory imagery, descriptive writing techniques and even punctuation hacks that carefully pace the action in your story and make your reader pay attention. This workshop is jam packed with skill development but don't be fooled, it's still great fun. Most importantly, through timed writing sprints and workshopping, we have an opportunity to work with and learn from each other.

Flash Fiction

Ernest Hemingway claimed he could write a story in less than ten words. (He completed in six.) Micro fiction, short shorts, flash fiction - call it what you will, the aim of this writing workshop is to complete pieces of writing with the bare minimum of words. Students love the idea of flash fiction, but they soon discover that it takes real skill and mastery of the English language to get it right. We'll explore flash fiction from 6-word memoirs to a 150-word stories. Because flash fiction condenses the essential elements of short story (setting, character and plot) writers have an opportunity to play with writing techniques and story structure. (Incidentally the same writing skills that create good flash fiction improve writing across the board) There are a great range of online writing sites for flash fiction which can be explored after the session.

If you would like to explore booking one of these workshops, please complete the enquiry form available at www.writeawaywithme.com/workshops