



Creative writing is my passion and when I'm not writing my own work, I love nothing more than firing the imagination in children. I have travelled all over the country, helping hundreds of students to produce their own writing that they are only too proud to read to the rest of the class.

I'm happy to tailor the day to suit your school, but most whole day visits include an assembly for any number of children, followed by workshops sessions for class groups (approx. 30 at a time is best as it's a writing exercise that requires paper, pens and space to get creative!).

Assembly (Up to an hour)

This is where I tell you how I got into writing and what inspired and still inspires me, from my early school days to now. I'm happy to link this into readings from **The Bubble Boy** or **All The Things That Could Go Wrong** and my new book, **Check Mates**. In particular the talks centre on the role of empathy in writing and students are encouraged to think about mental health issues such as loneliness, OCD, anxiety and depression, and how we can help ourselves and each other. It's also usually pretty FUNNY, honest! Especially when we get the question and answer session where I'm happy to answer any question other than 'Do you support Manchester United?' or 'How much do you earn?'

Workshops (Up to an hour each)

This is a guided **free writing** exercise where participants are encouraged to write without filter, exactly what is in their minds. I'm often asked if this is for gifted writers, and of course it can be, but actually I love it when students who have never written much suddenly put pen to paper and surprise us all. I particularly love it when I tentatively ask for volunteers to read at the end, only to have my fears swept away in a sea of arms. Suitable for Yr 5 and upwards.

For younger children (Yr 3, 4) I can do a **drama workshop** on the theme of unlikely friendships.

Please note that I can only run a maximum of 3 sessions (eg: one assembly and two workshops) in a school day.

The Horrible Bit!

Yes, the small print. The bit where I tell you, that although I love writing and love chatting to kids, I'm afraid I can't do it for free. Much like musicians these days, most of a writer's income is from book signing and tours, but I try to keep costs to an absolute minimum by only drinking water and eating bourbons and raw carrots. My fees are in line with those recommended by the Society of Authors. Please get in touch for a quote for your event. I should add that I'm only too aware of limited school funds so if you are struggling with funds you could always pair up with another school to share the costs. And of course, I can sign copies of my books and arrange for a book sale as well.