

Talks and Workshops that I can offer

Please contact my booking agent if you'd like me to visit your school.

When in schools I always aim to support the literacy program in the school. For example, I will no doubt say how I plan, how many times I rewrite, how many drafts I do or how I read lots. Much of which the teacher will have already taught the class. Teachers often tell me afterwards: *I'm so glad you said such and such, I've been telling them about that all term and it's good for them to hear professional writers say they also have this process.*

A teacher told me before I spoke one day that she had a student who didn't like reading. A few weeks later, I received an email from the teacher: *Remember so and so who didn't like reading? It finally clicked that a real person creates the books. It's amazing and I can't keep up with him now. Thank you so much for taking the time to come.*

Author Talks

Possible topics: About my career, how I became an author, my writing process, using journals, writing culture, writing to make unheard voices heard, living and writing in Pakistan, or your choice based on my experience and what your class would like to hear. Usually 1- 2 classes in attendance. (Sometimes 3 classes where numbers are smaller).

Book Talks

Where I show the inspiration, research and background story of a book or series that a class/classes may be reading. This can be either as an introduction to the book to inspire and give the background as the class begins to read, especially for a book with cultural themes, or at the end of reading the book, so students can ask pertinent questions and show their responses to the book.



Workshops (an hour in length)

Workshops can be tailor made for your students. Workshops work well with enough students to interact together but not so many that students don't get a chance to share. Try for 10 - 15. If you wish your whole class to benefit from a writing workshop, bear in mind it will be a slightly different activity as only a few students will be able to share or have their work commented on. A topic for this could be: sharing My Writing Process.

Possible topics for a group can include:

1. Characters write your Story
2. My Seven Secrets to Writing a Story
3. Writing Adventure Stories
4. Storytelling to page
5. Finding the Right Words (e.g. showing not telling, using strong verbs etc, this could include editing your own work)
6. Writing Picture Books (Often for Year 11 or primary students)
7. Why you can't finish your story.
8. Your choice tailored to what your students need at the time.

Most workshops end up being about planning, creating genuine characters, and using interesting language.



Master Classes for older students

These are longer than an hour, maybe two hours, for keen writers. They may have already written a story and want to know how to improve it, to learn to edit their own work. Or they may want to start with fresh ideas and learn how I plan and know a possible ending before I start. They may wish to know how to write historical fiction etc.

Author Visits are regulated by The Australian Authors Association (ASA)

Authors are paid for 180 minutes at a school, spread over the timetable which suits the classes involved. This can be 3 sessions of 1 hour each or 4 sessions of 45 minutes each. This can be tweaked e.g. Foundation students may only need a session of half an hour and the Year 6s may enjoy a session of one hour.