



Bookfest
Shrewsbury

Teacher Pack

President: Dame Jacqueline Wilson

Patrons: Martin Brown, Piers Torday & Ian Whybrow

www.shrewsburybookfest.co.uk

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The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

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SCHOOLS' WEEK PROJECT 2019

Four key components:



It was fantastic to meet SO many of you at the second, annual BOOKFEST CONFERENCE!

What now?

- **December 2018 – March 2109: Research and Read!** On receipt of this pack, you will have been informed WHO will be visiting your school! Start with the author information sheet and delve into their book and website.
- **March 2019: Author/Illustrator Workshops in Schools:**
As advised at the booking stage of this project, author workshops will be taking place in schools from 11th – 15th March 2019. Your school has been advised of the date and time of your workshop(s). The workshops have been carefully researched to meet the aims of this project – to inspire children to write creatively and produce their own book – and will help your pupils to develop and shape their ideas and writing skills.
- **March to April 2019: The Creative Writing Competition:**
We hope all your pupils will enter our creative writing competition. Blank 'books' are provided for all pupils in which to create their own story.
- **May 2019: A Celebration of Writing and Prize-giving.** You will be contacted at the end of April with details of prize-winners. A selection of the winning stories will be 'published' as audio books on the Shrewsbury Bookfest website and will be available to you as a future teaching resource.

TOP TIPS FOR A GREAT SCHOOL VISIT!

With thanks to Piers Torday, Patron of Shrewsbury Bookfest, for the author's view.

Here are some suggestions which might help the day go with a bang!

- 1. Prepare the students.** If you have time, set projects based on my work. Perhaps create a wall area featuring the author, with photos, book covers, illustrated characters, things the students have researched about him or her and written or drawn.
- 2. Check out the website of the author who will be visiting.** Suggest students do the same thing. This will give a little background knowledge and perhaps prompt some discussion and questions. If nothing else, the students will know what they look like!
- 3. Photos.** Don't forget to check in advance which students can appear in photographs. It's lovely to have a photo taken with some of your children, perhaps holding up work they've done during the visit. Photos can be useful for the school website, newsletter, perhaps to print and hang up in the classroom as a reminder of the visit, or in the school reception, to show prospective parents.
- 4. Check your tech.** My presentation is completely reliant on technology. It is also fast paced, fact filled and (I hope) entertaining as a result. As all schools use slightly different systems, I travel with my own Macbook Air laptop, all necessary adapters and cables, and a back up projector. All I need is access to your projector and screen, or a classroom smartboard, or even a large wide screen TV. My presentation includes sound, so I also need access to speakers and amplifier if required.

If you could unplug the school computer usually connected to the projector, and have that turned on and ready to go it would be a huge help. Ideally, I'd like a chance to set everything up before the children come into the room, but I appreciate that isn't always possible.
- 5. Welcome!** Be sure the front receptionist knows I'm coming, so there is no hold up getting into the building and setting up. Also, if someone was around to help me navigate the staff room, canteen, finding the toilet etc, that would be very kind. Giving reluctant readers this responsibility is something I highly recommend. And if I'm with you all day, I would love some lunch!
- 7. Take part.** I tend to find that when teachers engage alongside the children, the latter take the activity much more seriously and always have more fun. It's a little awkward when teachers chat at the back or ignore my talks and use the time to mark work. I also really

appreciate a brief word introduction from the teacher – even if it's not their class – and a thank you at the end.

8. Have a book signing system. Have post-it notes on hand and write the dedication name onto it and stick it to the book. Then I won't get the spelling wrong, or have to wait for the nervous child to spell out slowly his or her name phonetically.

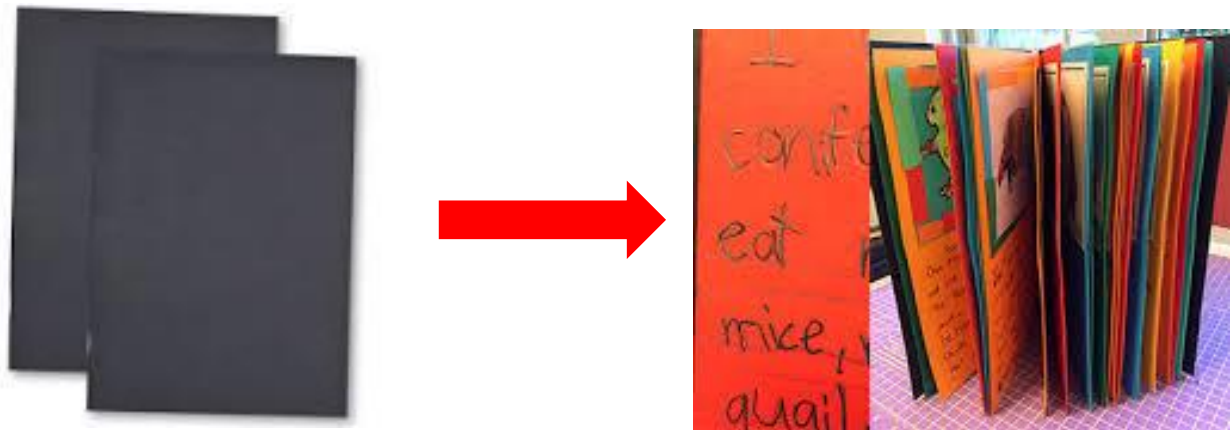
9. Relax! Sometimes a school can be so keen to make an author feel welcome, the students are severely warned not to step out of line. While most authors are not experts at crowd control and having teachers on hand is a must (and also a legal requirement), a moderately bouncy audience can be a lovely thing! I genuinely welcome honest and original questions.

**Thank you to author and illustrator Sarah McIntyre for allowing me to borrow some of her tips!*

Writing Competition – GUIDE

We would like your pupils to be so inspired by their workshop that they feel they can do it too....this is their chance to have a go at being a **real** author and/or illustrator!

We have provided a blank book for every pupil that has been booked onto the Schools' Week project.



- This is an opportunity for them to write with a **purpose** – These books are for the children to produce their very own 'published' story and to keep forever.
- We will provide an **audience for their work** - we have plenty of people ready and waiting to read and enjoy each and every story!
- Perhaps you could invite parents and carers to pop into school to see all of the books and share them with the children.
- Could they visit younger pupils and 'read aloud' their stories to others?
- Older pupils could visit a local care home and share their books with the residents?
- Keep in touch with your visiting author/illustrator. Send photo and videos of the children reading their stories, facetime them!
- Use them for guided reading activities.
- Have a display of the books in the classroom, could the children use them during Early Morning Activities?
- Write reviews of each other's stories.
- Have a class vote on the best ones.

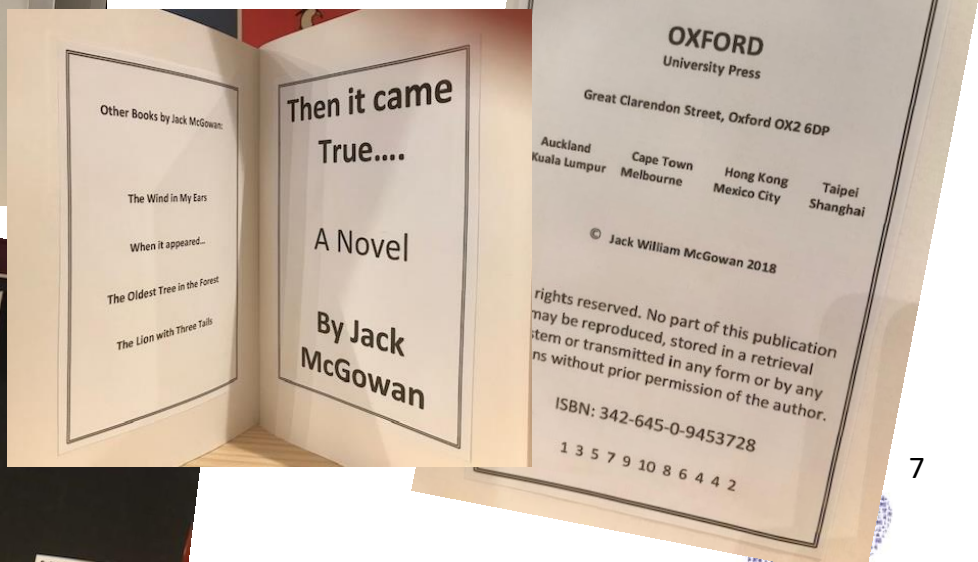
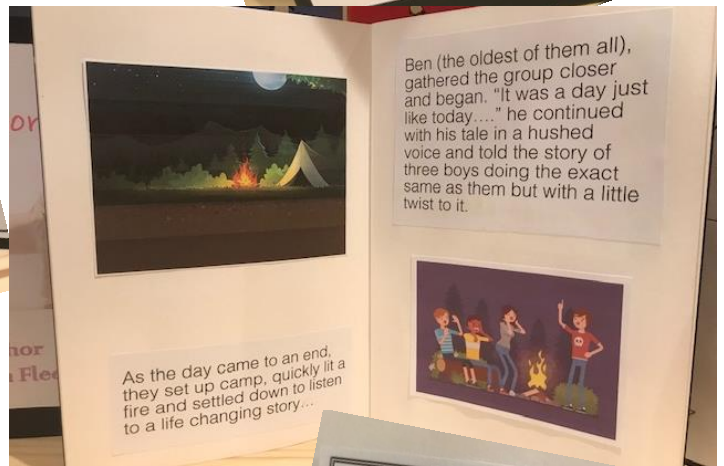
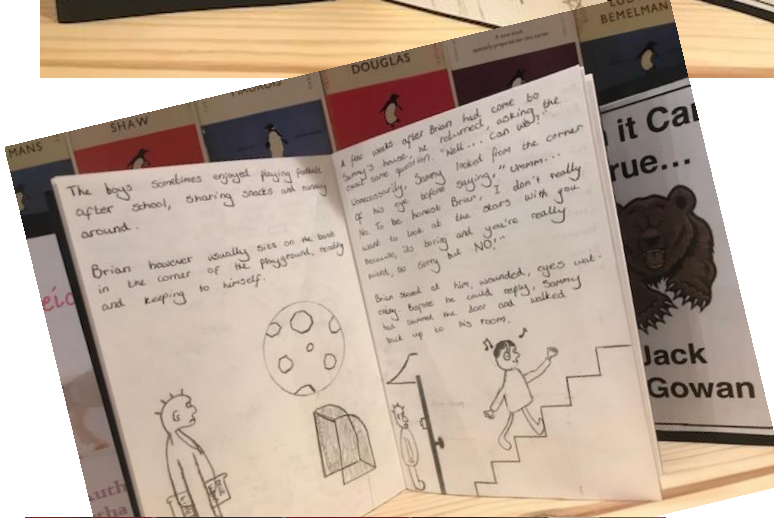
Writing Competition – THE BOOKS

- We would love for the children to **REALLY ENJOY** creating their stories and their books!
- We would like this to be an opportunity for **classroom focused fun!**
- We would **REALLY LOVE** the children to be **SUPER PROUD** of what they have produced!

How to do it...

- Look at a range of books, written by your author/illustrator (provided by Bookfest) and by other favourites.
- Investigate and annotate a **FRONT** cover. What information is displayed and why?
 - Who illustrated the cover?
 - What does it tell you about what the book may be about?
 - Does it give anything away?
- Investigate and annotate a **BACK** cover. What information is displayed and why?
 - Look at 'blurbs', what do they say about the story? – can the children write their own blurb about their story?
 - Are there recommendations/reviews from others? Could the children collect some of these from peers/teachers/make some up?!
 - How much will their book be? Is there a bar code? What is that for?
- Look inside a book, make a list, talk about the other information you can find.
 - Read some author biographies – can the children write their own biography about themselves as an 'author'?
 - What does 'published' mean? Who 'published' their book?
- How will the book be organised?
 - Will there be chapters?
 - Are they going to use page numbers?
 - How many illustrations will they use?
 - Whole pages? Half pages? NONE!?
- **PLEASE FIND PHOTOCOPIABLE LINEGUIDES AT THE BACK OF THIS PACK**
- **PLEASE REMOVE AS MANY PAGES FROM THE CENTRE OF EACH BOOK AS REQUIRED BEFORE THE PUPIL BEGINS TO WRITE.**
(these could be used for planning/practice pages)

Writing Competition – BOOK IDEAS



Writing Competition – THE RULES

Who can enter?

- The competition is open to all pupils who have been booked onto the Schools' Week project.
- Any age group is welcome to enter.

What to enter

- Each pupil is asked to create their own 'book'.
- We ask that it is as similar to a 'real' book as possible.

e.g. contains a front and back cover, blurb, author biography, title page....

- It can be any genre or style, except non-fiction.
- It can be a comic book
- It can be a picture book
- It can be words only.
- It can be handwritten or typed.

How to enter?

All entries must be either given to your school co-ordinator by arrangement, or delivered to:

Mrs A McGowan, 34 Kennedy Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 7AB.

When is the closing date?

Entries must be received by 11th April 2019. Please take this into consideration if posting.

Please check correct postage.

We will not be able to consider any entries received after this date....simply because we may well have over 1500 books to judge!

Writing Competition – JUDGING

The Judging Panel will include teachers and literacy specialists. Judges will be looking at the following when making their final decision:

- Story concept and structure, e.g. character, plot development, ending.
- Enjoyability...does it make us laugh/cry/remember it?
- Presentation of 'the book'

The judges are unable to give feedback on individual stories.

The judges' decision is final.

Prizes?

A minimum of 10 'books' must be entered by each school entering the competition. Every school that enters will have a prize winner.

A selection of 'top stories' will be selected to be published/recorded as audio books on our website.

When will winners be announced?

We will announce winners and runners up by Friday 27th April 2019.

Prizewinners will be invited to Shrewsbury Bookfest's 21st Birthday Party on Saturday 4th May 2019 in Shrewsbury, where they will be awarded their prizes. (Precise time and location to be advised.)

Promotion

We will publish the names of winners and some stories on our website and social media. Please inform Bookfest of winners whose names or photographs cannot be used in any promotional activity.

Classroom Activities

The following pages include photocopiable (A3 recommended) pages that you can use to help develop story/creative writing ideas.

1. Character development:

Children can use this sheet (enlarged to A3) to begin to develop a character using a range of description and detail.

The children could begin by working on a character(s) from a story they know/have been studying, then use this process to build levels of description about a character of their own design.

The children could write and think about:

- Describing some key features
- How does the character move?
- What are they wearing?
- Do they make any sounds?
- What are they thinking/planning?
- Where have they come from/where are they going to?
- What opinions do others have of them?

The story itself can build out of this one character alone...

2. Scene Setting – Ruin/Swamp (or alternative of your own, local to school):

Using the photographs and the sheet/s, enlarged to A3 for ease of annotation.

The children can choose a scene or setting for their story, or a place where some of the action/events happen.

The children could write and think about:

- What time of the day it is, is it changing?
- What the sky is like?
- What sounds can they hear?
- Are there any smells in the air?
- What other people or animals are in the place?
- What is the weather like, is it changing?

- Is there anything in the distance/moving away/towards us?
- Is anything growing?
- Does anything suddenly appear? In a window, out of some water?
- Does the story move from this place to another setting, another world?

Add their own annotation to the picture to use as an ideas board/planning tool.

The story itself can build out of this one setting alone...

3. 'Portal' Story

Looking at the photograph of the door, or an alternative 'portal', children can begin to plan ideas for a story into another world.

The children could write and think about:

- Where could the door lead to?
- What is the door/handle made of?
- What do the carvings around the door represent?
- Why might the character want/need to go through the door?
- What land/world/place can be found on the other side?
- What adventures may be had on the other side?
- Who or what do they meet whilst there?
- How do they get back to their own land?

Bookfest Online Support

As always please refer to our website: **www.shrewsburybookfest.co.uk**

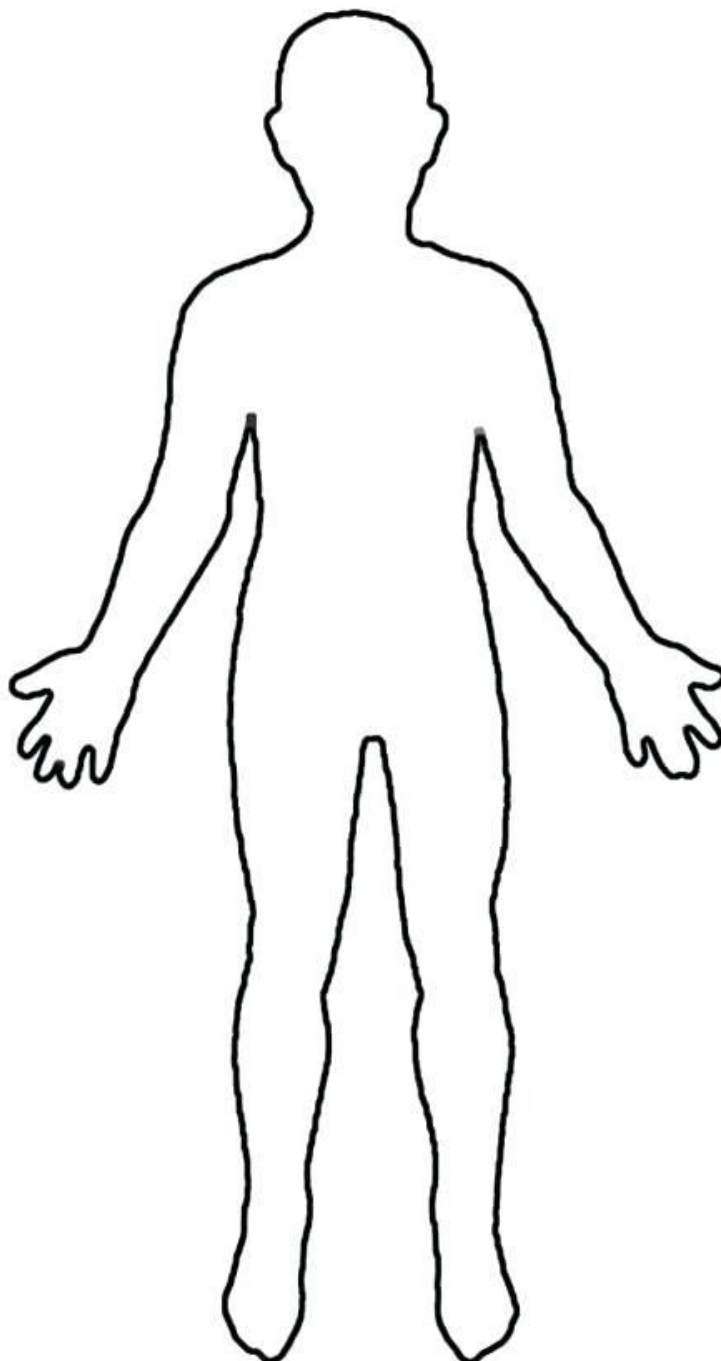
...where you will find this pack and further information about all things SCHOOLS' WEEK 2019

We are also providing a collection of 'top tips' from our visiting authors including topics such as:

- Getting started on their writing
- Developing their ideas
- Creating characters
- Editing and improving

These tips will be available on the Bookfest website from 18th March 2019.

1. Character Development



2. Scene Setting - Ruin



© Image credit: Richard Banks

2. Scene Setting - Swamp



2. Scene Setting - Swamp



3. Portal Story



Useful links to Shrewsbury Bookfest Creative Writing Conference Workshop leaders

On Wednesday 14th November 2018, 100 teachers gathered at University Centre Shrewsbury to mark the launch of the Bookfest project, Schools' Week 2019, by way of attending a CPD/Conference to collect knowledge, ideas and support in order to develop their own creative writing teaching practice. Click [here](#) for an overview of the Conference:

The following leaders in children's literature and creative writing delivered workshops throughout the day.

Please follow their links to go through to their websites where they share information and ideas on how to really inspire children to write brilliant stories:

PHIL FERGUSON – Memoir Writing

What was covered during the Conference workshop:

Memoir is one of the most popular and successful writing projects among the children in my class. Delegates focused on generating an idea, planning and first drafting - and finding the diamond in the rough and the things that really matter.

Phil Ferguson is a national and writing representative for The UKLA (United Kingdom Literacy Association) and content provider for The National Literacy Trust. Phil is a serving Primary school teacher of many years' experience and has worked in both the maintained and the independent sectors as SENCO and Deputy Head.

literacyforpleasure.wordpress.com

MAZ EVANS – Story Stew®

What was covered during the Conference Workshop:

Maz Evans presented a fun and interactive creative writing workshop, Story Stew®, to teach:

- a simple structure that helps even the most reluctant writer to create a story,
- how to write a story with five basic ingredients,
- there are no wrong answers in creativity,
- the only constraint is the limit of your imagination,
- writing is actually really super double good fun.

Maz began her career as a TV journalist, critiquing for The Daily Telegraph, The Daily Mail, The Sun, and TV Times magazine and she still regularly broadcasts her views on anything from politics to parenthood on BBC Radio 2, BBC News, BBC Radio 4, Five Live and the bus. Maz has participated in the Casualty and Holby City BBC shadow schemes and her children's poetry has been published in Caterpillar magazine. Maz's debut children's novel Who Let the Gods Out was published by Chicken House in February 2017 and was selected as the Waterstone's Children's Book of the Month. It has received over 20 award nominations, including the Carnegie Medal, Branford Boase, Books Are My Bag and Waterstone's Children's Book of the Year. The sequel, Simply the Quest was published in August 2017, Beyond the Odyssey in April 2018 and 'Against All Gods' will publish in 2019. Maz also narrates the audiobooks for the series.

maz.world/

ROB SMITH – The Literacy Shed – Enhancing English Through Film

What was covered during the Conference Workshop:

Rob explored a range of still and moving image media, demonstrating their value to the reading and writing process through analysis and questioning. How a director's choice to portray something can be used by teachers to inspire discussions and hook students in. Rob showed how film and image can be used to teach writing techniques such as portraying character emotion, building tension and creating atmosphere as well providing a wealth of content for both fiction and non-fiction writing. Films tell a story; Rob demonstrated how the stories told in films can be used as scaffolds to help students create their own narratives explaining how films can be broken down into scenes and shots and what role each of these has within the narrative.

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Rob Smith set up The Literacy Shed from his dining room table in 2012 whilst teaching full time in a primary school in the North West of England. From blogging about the films he was using with his class, to a site filled with 300+ short films and animations. He now travels the world discussing the use of film and image in the classroom and how they can benefit reading and writing practice. Rob's techniques are now being used in 1000s of schools around the world and are having a positive impact upon the children whose teachers use them.

www.literacysshed.com

CHRISTOPHER EDGE – Every Writer is a Reader, Every Reader is a Writer

What was covered during the Conference Workshop:

In this interactive workshop, Christopher Edge demonstrated the approaches he uses when running creative writing workshops with primary school children and shared the rationale behind these, exploring topics such as 'beating the fear of the blank page', 'making characters real', 'building believable worlds' and 'crafting a killer opening'. Drawing on his publications *How To Write Your Best Story Ever!* and *How To Be A Young #Writer*, Christopher will discuss how to help children to view themselves as readers and writers, giving a voice to the stories they want to tell.

Christopher Edge is an award-winning children's author who grew up in Manchester where he spent most of his childhood in the local library dreaming up stories, but now lives in Gloucestershire where he spends most of his time in the local library dreaming up stories. His most recent novel, The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day, was chosen by The Times as their Children's Book of the Week and described by The Guardian as "a heartbreaking, head-melting science fiction mystery from the superlative Christopher Edge", whilst his previous novels, The Many Worlds of Albie Bright and The Jamie Drake Equation were both nominated for the CILIP Carnegie Medal. His other books include the creative writing guides How to Write Your Best Story Ever! and How To Be A Young #Writer.

christopheredge.co.uk



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