



## We know how to write about poetry; how do we start writing our own poems?

Hour-long creative sessions centred on poetry idea generation, execution and revision with a published poet and practicing performer.

### What can I offer your school or writing group?

To demonstrate how magazines, music and the immediate environment might be tapped for inspiration alongside prescribed course texts, I offer workshops that encourage wider reading for one's own creative writing and performance practice.

From a discussion of what poetry is, why we study it and why we might write it, the workshops move through rapid idea generation exercises towards group multimedia compositions or performance practices, where we immediately apply the techniques we've talked through to various pieces of literature, including, for instance, the contemporary poetry studied from Year 9 through to Upper Sixth.

Additionally, I would be delighted to talk through my own work with interested pupils and staff, and, further, to run CPD sessions.

### How will your pupils benefit from these sessions?

From concept development to the importance of making 'mistakes' and then editing work in order to find the best version of it, I hope to inspire in your pupils the idea that anyone anywhere is capable of writing something fantastic and that the key to being a great writer is first to start writing. I will also discuss in these sessions my own creative practice.

### Who am I?

I am a Middlesbrough-based writer in my mid-twenties with over two years experience as each of: a prose and poetry editor and publisher, a performer, a digital marketer and a backpacker. I am enthused by working with and being pushed by (not yet) artists from every background. I am keen to hear other people's stories and to help them write, edit and even perform them, instilling in each session my own enjoyment of writing, reading and performing.

## My work

*BLOCK; or, the naïveté of a prince not crowned* published by Wrecking Ball Press.

ISBN: 978-1-903110-55-3

## Practicalities

- One-hour to full-day long workshops
- Tailored for year 9 and up (14 - 18+)
- Up to 30 pupils per workshop
- Options for staff CPD session and BLOCK signings
- DBS-checked
- Will travel provided costs can be met
- Please email for fees and further details.



## **WE KNOW HOW TO WRITE ABOUT POETRY; HOW DO WE START WRITING OUR OWN POEMS?**

Poetry idea generation, execution and revision in hour-long to full-day workshops.

This series of creative writing and performance sessions encourages reading for one's own writing and demonstrates how magazines, music and one's immediate environment might be tapped for inspiration alongside prescribed course texts.

Workshops can be further tailored towards current syllabus, as well as school themes and stories.

### **WORKSHOP MODELS**

1. BLOCK poetry: how I completed my first poetry collection by deleting nearly half of it.
2. Tear it up and start again: an introduction to the cut-up technique and how existing texts can be turned into something new.
3. Anybody or anything anywhere is capable of saying something fantastic: building confidence in writing and performing
4. It's not what you say, it's how you say it: a performance poetry workshop
5. Rhyme and slang: poetry for people who think they hate poetry.

### **TEACHABLE SKILLS**

- Rapid concept development
- Editing and the importance of making 'mistakes'
- Development of presentation and performance confidence
- Teamwork and shared responsibility through group compositions
- Critical evaluation of textual voice through analyses of cross-medium stimuli.

### **VALUE FOR PUPILS AND FOR SCHOOLS**

- Cross-class collaboration
- Build confidence in writing and speaking
- The potential creative release of emotion
- Develop capacity to rapidly generate, select and relate ideas
- Introduction to a published poet's writing and performance process
- I aim to instil an enjoyment of reading as well as a passion for writing creatively and performing both original and adapted pieces
- I continue to study poetry and prose from the Romantics to the Beats to the present day; if you would like a workshop centred around an era or a particular poet, I am confident I can tailor activities around those given topics.

## **PRACTICALITIES**

### **Preferred age range**

Year 9 through to Upper Sixth for curriculum-matched courses, otherwise 14+

### **Maximum number in any session**

Up to 30 for a workshop.

### **Number of sessions in a day**

*FULL-DAY (with option for staff CPD session out of school hours)*

4 workshops if with 4 different groups

3 workshops + 1 hour of group reflection if with one class

2 extended workshops with 2 different groups.

*HALF-DAY*

2 workshops

1 extended workshop + 30 minutes of group reflection and where to go next.

I am happy to sit-in on assemblies for both full and half days.

### **Length of sessions**

Singular workshops last 50 minutes with time at the end for feedback and Q+A.

### **Book signings**

For older students, I'd like to bring in copies of BLOCK to sell and offer signings.

### **Areas prepared to travel to**

Anywhere provided transport/overnight expenses can be met.

### **Transport**

Bus or train

### **Fees**

Full day: £350

Half day: £180

One hour: £90

Please email for discussion.

### **DBS/CRB**

Yes

### **Website**

<https://www.whojackmann.com>