

MEG HARPER'S WORK IN EDUCATION

We all wanted it to go on longer! Come again, Meg!

Solihull Gifted and Talented Cluster

Meg is a qualified English and Drama teacher so can provide a variety of events, ranging from traditional author visits to innovative creative writing and drama workshops. She can design workshops to suit teachers' and pupils' particular needs. She especially enjoys using her own writing as a springboard for drama which can lead to creative writing. Her writing is most suited to children aged 6-14 but she is happy to work with any age group and any group size. For inter-active workshops, however, she would recommend group sizes of no more than 30. She can also provide assemblies and inset training if required. She has an MA (Distinction in Theatre and Drama Education and has a special interest in creating workshops for Heritage venues. Examples of successful recent projects include 'Write Here and Now' for Warwickshire Museums and Libraries, in which groups of gifted and talented pupils wrote for publication a story based on four heritage venues, 'Getting it Gorgeous', an editing and re-drafting workshop for Solihull Gifted and Talented Cluster and 'Banbury Stories', a local history/creative writing project for adults leading to

publication of a book of stories and poetry. She is currently Writer in Residence at Newburgh School, Warwick and will begin a new writing residency at Westgate School, Warwick in the autumn.

What they say about Meg's workshops:

Helen Price, Senior Team Leader, Children, Young People and Family Learning, Stratford-upon-Avon Library

Meg Harper is very good at engaging with both children and adults. She quickly builds up a rapport with those she works with, drawing out their creativeness. Meg is able to spark ideas in others and encourage the use of the imagination. She radiates a genuine interest and enthusiasm for writing which is infectious.

SJ Hamman, class teacher: Cropredy C of E Primary, Oxfordshire

'I would recommend any school to use her presentations to supplement many strands of the National Curriculum.'

St. Anthony's R.C. Primary, Leamington Spa

The drama was great. The children were enthused and bubbling with excitement. They talked about the characters in the book and remembered them weeks later.

Heather Butler, NAWÉ mentor, primary teacher, writer and creative writing tutor: Amersham, Bucks

Meg's creative workshops develop drama, story writing and listening skills. A teacher for over fifteen years, Meg's rapport with the children is warm and dynamic. A wonderful way to interact with a writer. The children produced excellent work. I have no hesitation in recommending Meg.

Current Talks

Being a writer - how it REALLY is!

In this entertaining and inter-active talk (which can last up to an hour but is shortened to half an hour for the younger audiences), Meg shares a few tricks of the trade and reveals details of the process of creating a book.

Princess Amelia

A half-hour special for 3-6 year olds. Meg shares her story about Princess Amelia with members of her audience, who use simple props and items of costume to help her tell the story. Meg also shares some simple information about how a writer works and a book is made. This talk can be adapted for school assemblies.

Current Workshops

MAINLY CREATIVE WRITING...

A Handful of Stories

Ideally suited for any age from year 3 up though it will be managed by some year 2 groups, this is a workshop about story planning, using **The Story Hand** planning strategy! A lot more fun than it sounds - uses Meg's own stories and mine of anecdotes as a starting point. It takes a minimum of 40-45 minutes but can expand greatly!

Getting it Gorgeous

Particularly suitable for age 9+, this 3 hour inter-active workshop focuses on re-drafting and editing. Participants need to have a previously written piece of prose which they wish to improve.

A Bundle of Laughs

Suitable for age 7+, this 2-3 hour inter-active workshop utilises children's own experience to create funny short stories. Uses Meg's own stories as a starting point.

It's for real!

Suitable for age 7+, this 2-3 hour inter-active workshop focuses on writing realism. No horror, no Harry Potter, no swords and sorcery allowed! Uses Meg's own stories as a starting point.

Animal Magic

An hour's talk/workshop for Years 2-4, using 'St Jenni - Animal Crazy' as a starting point for simple creative writing about pets - both real and fantastical! Can be lengthened and adapted to include some simple drama.

How to stop your teacher from sleeping!

This inter-active workshop for upper KS2 lasts from 1-2 hours and focuses on simple techniques for building suspense.

Argue, argue, argue!

Using a simple dramatic approach, Meg suggests a lively way of tackling argumentative writing. This workshop lasts about an hour and is most suitable for upper KS2.

MAINLY DRAMA

Action, sound, story!

A lively drama workshop based around Meg's book 'No More School' which can lead to creative writing if require. 1-2 hours and most suitable for KS2.

New Stories for Old

A drama/creative writing workshop most suitable for year 6 and above, based on themes from Meg's book 'Fur'. 2 hours

WANT TO BOOK A TALK OR WORKSHOP?

It's best to phone Meg to discuss your requirements as e-mail can be unreliable although you can e-mail her from this web-site if you prefer.

Tel: 01926 403424

Before phoning, make sure you have read 'Meg's Current Talks and Workshops' to see if any suit you or if you would prefer to commission something new. Likewise, to avoid any embarrassment, look at Meg's fees! Meg doesn't work for free except in very exceptional circumstances!

Fees

£250 per day

£150 per half day

plus travel and accommodation expenses

Special discount rate for local schools - £35 per hour

(check eligibility with Meg)

£20 extra for new commissions

Residencies by negotiation with Meg

NB. Meg's full rate is based on Society of Authors recommendations which are supported by the National Association of Writers in Education. Meg is a member of both these organisations and has enhanced CRB clearance and public liability insurance.

Some other important points!

Meg has the following expectations concerning educational visits. Please make sure you are aware of them. When you complete and return the booking form that she sends you, you will be expected to sign, acknowledging that you have read and understood them. If these expectations are not met, a second invoice will be presented with a £20 surcharge.

- **Meg's visit does not begin before 9.30am unless by special arrangement.**
- **A map and directions are sent in advance of the visit, including local details such as 'The school is invisible from the road. Turn in after the large yew hedge!'**
- **A parking space is made available unless Meg is travelling by train (in which case, she should be met at and returned to the station or sent details of a local taxi company.) Meg brings a heavy bag full of equipment.**
- **Meg is informed of any security arrangements for access to the school.**
- **Someone who is aware of Meg's visit is available to meet her at Reception (who will have been informed of her arrival).**
- **A teacher (not a TA) is with Meg at all times during her workshops/talks. (This is essential for child protection/insurance purposes.)**

- **THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY AND SPACE FOR MEG TO SELL HER BOOKS AND PARENTS AND PUPILS HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THIS IN ADVANCE. (If possible, sales should be arranged through a local bookshop but if not, Meg can bring books for sale with her.)**
- **Meg is provided with somewhere to sit and a mug of tea and a biscuit (not chocolate!!!) at school break times and water to drink during her high-octane workshops! Thank you!**
- **Meg's invoice is paid on the day unless special arrangements have been made.**
- **At least two weeks' notice of cancellation is given**