



A Window on Another World – Workshop Overview

The Window on Another World Workshop draws on two main elements:

- My cross-cultural visit to Indonesia, where I visited six schools in a remote part of the Balinese jungle.
- Developing a story using settings and dialogue.

The session is designed to be very interactive, educational and fun. Children get to develop their own character/creature and then, thinking about their own experiences and those they have just learned about in the Indonesia section, they create settings and exciting scenarios for stories. They learn how to make characters and settings 'realistic'.

- *The whole workshop can be done in 50-60 minutes. Ideally this session would be followed up by the 'Fables are Fun' workshop* – which takes the character/creature that the children have designed, the settings and dialogue skills they have learned and pulls it all together to make their very own fable.

Part 1 (suitable for 8 – 12 years; 25 mins)

- I introduce myself and explain that we are going to look at two very different worlds.
- I ask the children if they have heard of Bali and where they think it might be.
- I show a map and explain the distances involved 12,000km each way. I show Bali, an island, in relation to a much bigger feature – a continent. Given the shape of the continent I ask them to tell me its name – Australia.
- We zoom in on Bali and look at some of its typical features – Padi fields, tourist beaches, temples, active volcanoes, the dense Jungle.
- I ask them what creatures they might find in such a jungle. Fruit Bats, Snakes, Spiders, Monkeys, (Tigers – now extinct) etc. *This can lead to a brief discussion about extinction.*
- I explain that there was a group of people lost in this dense jungle for 700 years. I show pictures of these people when they were discovered, 16 years ago. Almost pre-historic. 19 tribes at war. 30% of the children dying before they were 10. Poisonous water. Iodine deficiency. Their basic houses – GABUKS.
- I tell the story of how they were discovered, and how a road was built there. I ask them what might have changed since the road was built. I talk about the importance of building toilets and introducing education. Hygiene. Music. Learning to read, write and count.
- I talk about the 6 new schools. And the day in the life of a child, their age, in the Balinese jungle. (Lots of questions – What do you think the children in Bali do next?)

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- We look at the strange creatures of Bali – Giant Wood Spiders, Fruit Bats, Atlas Beetles, Volcano Monkeys, Snakes – and the risks of using an outside toilet, in the jungle, at night!
- I teach them an Indonesian greeting – ‘Hati Hati’.
- I refer them, if it’s ok with the school, to the Bali Diaries Page on my website. There a link here to the 8 video diaries I did for GLOW (the Scottish Government website for schools).

Part 2 (suitable for 8 – 12 years; 25 mins)

- We review the creature we created in the first Imagination Workshop.
- I talk about forming a character – How is this done? I ask them to flesh out their creature.
- I ask them to be detectives and show them a series of pictures.
- They have to say what elements of the pictures they would use in a story as a setting.
- I show them how I drew on real places to make a fantasy setting in Talisman – book 1 of THE PECK CHRONICLES
- I read the relevant part of the book.
- I split the class into tables of 6 and get them to design a setting for their own creature.

Question Time (Suitable for 8 – 12 years; 5 mins)

If we are moving onto the ‘Fables are Fun’ workshop - I tell them about the next session to come.

Equipment needed

- Ample space – for the amount of children to sit either side of the rolled out wallpaper. *If multiple classes are going to be seen, it is better to have them come into one single area, with everything all set up. But I can ‘work round’ if this is not possible.*
- Data Projector*
- Laptop*
- Memory stick and pointer – for me.
- Flipchart*
- Crayons and pencils etc*
- Marker pens*
- Three rolls of wallpaper*

(* please let me know in advance if the school can supply these items – paulmurdoch1@gmail.com)

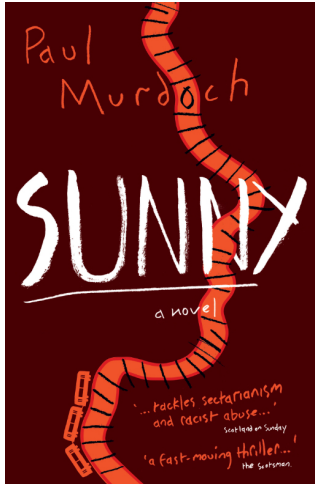
Selling my books - before, during and after my visit. As a full-time author, it is always a great help if I am able to sell my books at the school. This works best if there is a communication to parents a few days before I visit with an enclosed pre-order form. Again, in many schools, children may bring money on the day to buy books and have them dedicated and signed. Also, there are often children present who, after experiencing the session, realise they would like a dedicated and signed copy. I can provide an order form to enable this.

I carry author stock of all my books which I buy from my publisher at a slight discount. I pass some of this on to the children for any orders taken through the school before, during and up to 14 days after the event. Books available listed below:

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Sunny - Luck seems to be on young Sunny Wilson's side when he survives a major road accident. But was he meant to walk away? Sunny is convinced someone has it in for him – a sense strengthened when an attempt is made to abduct him from hospital. Once out, Sunny is faced with his town's ongoing sectarian divisions. They boil over when someone attacks a train carrying pupils from a rival school. Sunny knows the culprit's identity, but the risks of revealing it are high. All Sunny's troubles seem to stem back to the crash. So, he follows a hunch to try to solve that mystery...and finds his life in peril all over again. £7.99



Talisman – Book 1 of 'The Peck Chronicles'. James Peck's father is missing and he sets off to find him with the help of some very strange creatures. An exciting fantasy adventure full magic, monsters, courage, determination and family. James has to find the Talisman of Denthan if he has to have any chance of stopping the evil wizard Dendralon and finding his father, but no one knows what it looks like. £6.99

Citadel – Book 2 of 'The Peck Chronicles'. James Peck, battles his way through a dying world in an effort to stop a Hedra wizard from saving his own kind at the expense of all others. A fast-paced fantasy adventure where James tries to save a whole world, his family, and everything he loves before time runs out. £6.99 (Available on pre-order).

Tyrant - Book 3 of 'The Peck Chronicles'. James Peck soon discovers that there is a second gateway in Drumfintley and he is soon drawn into another adventure on the world of Artilis. He has to pit his wits and his magic against an even greater force than before in order to save Earth and everyone he loves. £6.99 (Available on pre-order).



Paul Murdoch - Evaluation Sheet

I am always keen to improve, tweak, and listen to any feedback you may have.

What was the most useful part of the workshop?

What part of the workshop could be improved?

General Comments

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