



The Environmental – Workshop Overview

The Workshop uses the books *Windscape* and *The Egg Thief* to look at a controversial issues through an adventure story for children. Paul talks about the inspiration for the book and how he then put the story together.

- The session is designed to be very interactive, educational and fun. Children learn about forming characters, using realistic dialogue, setting the scene and constructing a plot. They construct a storyboard.

- *The whole workshop can be done in 50-60 minutes*

Part 1 (suitable for 8 – 14 years; 15 minutes) The Inspiration

- I introduce myself and talk about how I fell into writing books. What is a pseudonym?
- I show the children a series of newspaper articles and relay the story that led to the writing of *Windscape* and *The Egg Thief*
- I look at the different settings I could have used.
- What setting would the children have used?
- I decide on a main character for the book – ‘the protagonist’. People I have known? Who would the children’s main character be? How would they want them to behave?
- I think about other characters that will inhabit the book – who are the ‘goodies and the baddies’? If the children were writing a similar book, who would their goodies and baddies be?
- Are there going to be a few surprises? What makes a good surprise/twist in a book?

Part 2 (suitable for 8 – 14 years; 15 minutes) A Beginning a Middle and an End

- I split the class into groups.
- One group listens for description, one group listens for dialogue, one group interprets the feelings of the main characters.
- I read the beach scene from *Windscape*.
- The different groups relay their findings.

Part 3 (suitable for 8 – 14 years; 20 mins) – Writing Your Own Story

- Having listened and learned, so far, we look at The Egg Thief and talk about eagles and conservation in the Highlands.
- Ask the children to think about the main characters and what motivates them (readings)
- We have an imagination session, designing a character and looking at settings.

- **Question Time** (Suitable for 8 – 14 years; 5 minutes)

General questions about being an author, writing etc.

Equipment needed

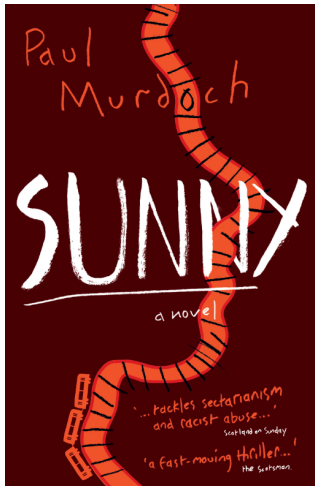
- Ample space – for children to work either side of some rolled out wallpaper. *If multiple classes are going to be seen, it is better to have them come into one single area, with everything all set up. But I can 'work around' this if space is not possible.*
- Flipchart and marker
- Screen, white wall or link to a display system. I have my own projector and use a Mac Air.

(please email me at – paulmurdoch1@gmail.com or phone 07784235151 if there are any issues)

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 event. This works best if there is a communication to parents a few days before I visit with an enclosed pre-order form. Children can 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

Books available listed below:

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. (Ages: 9-Adult / Themes: differences, bullying, racism, adventure, attitudes in the past compared to now /Price: £7.50. Bulk discounts available)



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. (Ages: 7-14 / Themes: quest story, magic, monsters, adventure, mystery, fantasy, family tensions, morals, /Price: £6.50. Bulk discounts available)

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. (Ages: 7-14 / Themes: quest story, magic, monsters, adventure, mystery, fantasy, family tensions, morals, /Price: £6.50. Bulk discounts available)

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 great force than before in order to save Earth and everyone he loves. (Ages: 7-14 / Themes: quest story, magic, monsters, adventure, mystery, fantasy, family tensions, morals, /Price: £6.50. Bulk discounts available)



Windscape – an eco-thriller for children that explores the topic of wind farms in the beautiful setting of Western Scotland. When protestors come onto their farm Hamish MacLeod has a heart attack and is taken to Glasgow. When Jenny finds out what is really going behind the plan to build a wind farm on their farm, she has to save her father and protect their future. (Ages: 7-14 / Themes: adventure, Scotland, environmental issues, mystery, friendship, morals, /Price: £6.50. Bulk discounts available)

The Egg Thief - Young Jenny MacLeod and her friend, Pavel, are caught up in an exciting adventure on the Western Isles of Scotland. While caretaking her uncle's farm on the island of Barra, Jenny and Pavel are embroiled in a plot to steal some very precious sea eagle eggs from the cliffs of Mull. A mysterious stranger is set to pay a fortune to an egg thief and will stop at nothing. Jenny and Pavel try to do the right thing, but soon face a series of life-threatening events that will shake their very foundations. (Ages: 7-14 / Themes: adventure, Scotland, environmental issues, mystery, friendship, morals, /Price: £6.50. Bulk discounts available)



The Tiffy Toffy Picture books – five colourful picture books that feature two little mice and their adventures on the farm. Safe, family books with counting and finding elements. (Ages: 3-7 / Themes: adventure, animals, birds, friendship, morals, counting, finding /Price: £6.50 each. Bulk discounts available)

PAUL MURDOCH'S TIFFY TOFFY TALES
ADVENTURE, COUNTING, READING AND FINDING...

Tiffy & Toffy
The Lucky Pellet
 written by Paul Murdoch
 illustrated by Scott Wallace

Tiffy & Toffy
The Squashed-Worm and Bramble Pie
 written by Paul Murdoch
 illustrated by Scott Wallace

Tiffy & Toffy
The Big Red Monster
 written by Paul Murdoch
 illustrated by Scott Wallace

Tiffy & Toffy
The Great Vole Rescue
 written by Paul Murdoch
 illustrated by Scott Wallace

Tiffy & Toffy
Annie Adder's Gold
 written by Paul Murdoch
 illustrated by Scott Wallace

Fun Picture Books for Younger Kids.

Available from Neetah Books - www.neetahbooks.com or email neetahbooks@gmail.com

Paul Murdoch - Evaluation Sheet

I am always keen to improve, therefore happy to receive 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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