Available Workshops

**Children’s Workshops**

School Visits:

Lead an assembly followed by a book sale after school.

This can be on the theme of fairy tales, folklore or poetry. It is best if the assembly is just before the end of school. A room or hall is useful for the book sale. Signings are welcome.

Literature Weeks or poetry themed events.

In need of a judge, visitor or kick-starter? This can be linked with the above or can be for a class visit.

Workshops:

Folklore Workshop (1hr)

Stories, poetry and drama. Using musical instruments if required. Interactive. Can be adapted for all ages (folklore gets pretty dark!) and can cover local, national or world folklore. Goes well with a follow up poetry workshop in the afternoon. Reduced rate if a book sale can be arranged for after school.

For (KS1) (KS2) (KS3) (GCSE) (ALevel)

Fairy Tale Workshop (1hr)

Stories, poetry and drama. Using musical instruments if required. Interactive. Can be adapted for all ages (as original fairy tales can be pretty messed up!) and covers mainly European tales. Goes well with a follow up poetry workshop in the afternoon. Reduced rate if a book sale can be arranged for after school.

For (KS1) (KS2) (KS3) (GCSE) (ALevel)

Poetry Workshop (1 to 2hrs depending on need)

Using accessible techniques and activities, can encourage writing of poetry. Ability and age isn’t a barrier as the workshop is adaptable. Works well linked with a fairy tale or folklore workshop. Reduced rate if a book sale can be arranged for after school.

For (KS1) (KS2) (KS3) (GCSE) (ALevel)

**Adult’s Workshops**

Event Talks:

Folklore (1 to 2hrs depending on need)

Taken from the very successful Plymouth Literature Festival event ‘In The Darkly Woods’. Covers Plymouth folklore but can be adapted for the locale of the talk. Can also focus on British folk customs as well as legends. Humourus (at least we’ve been told that) and intended for an 18+ audience due to language. Depending on availability, can include both Blaidh Nemorlith and Dorian Sounde (musician) with some interactive folk songs to accompany.

Writing poetry for children (1 to 2hrs depending on need)

With experience as a teacher and writer of children’s books, can discuss what the target audience likes. After being on the end of the best critics in the world, I have learnt a thing or two about what they want from a book. Can discuss ideas, how to test, what’s important etc.

Readings/performances

Having read at CrossCountry Writers, The Word, Twin Sounds and at my own events during the Plymouth Literature Festival, I am happy to read or perform at different events and festivals. I can choose work based on themes or just free read from a collection of my poetry.

Workshops:

Poetry for beginners (Max of 20 people)

An interactive seminar that shows good starting points, things to note when writing (such as different techniques), groups to approach, websites to access etc. Includes a short write and share during the seminar. Great for people interested in writing poetry but think they can’t!

Poetry for amateurs (Max of 20 people)

An interactive seminar for people who write poetry but aren’t confident their work is any good. Looks at the techniques they use in their work, ways to get work noticed without having to show your face etc. Can lead to work being shared on my website’s blog, *Tall Tales*.

Staff Meetings (as a twilight session or INSET):

Staff training on games, activities and creative ways to encourage good poetry with children. Includes how to bypass the curriculum and not kill creativity.

*Blaidh is only available on Thursdays or Fridays and weekends during term time. During holidays, availability is more flexible.* [*Visit*](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolsandeducation/checktermdatesandholidays) *Plymouth Council website for exact term dates. Please tweet, FB message or email me to find out availability, costs or for general enquiries. I am flexible with the workshops and can tailor them to the needs of the group.*