

School visits

By Mark Pardoe – Children's author



About Mark Pardoe

My experience as a primary school teacher has formed the basis of my writing for children. In both my books and school visits I aim to entertain, inspire and challenge students to use their own imaginations in ways they may not previously have considered.

The common thread in my writing is the attempt to engage and hold the reader's attention through the use of humour, pace and authentic characters and settings. It is these qualities that I try to pass on to students during any incursion program.

My first book released by Scholastic in March 2012 entitled *Not Bog Standard*, is a collection of 12 short stories broadly written for 8 – 12 year olds. All involve varying degrees of humour, quirkiness, and supernatural themes.

My first young adult fiction novel titled *The Andy Flegg Survival Guide to losing your dog, your dad and your dignity in 138 days*, was published by Penguin Australia in July 2013. It is a humorous diary account of an eleven year old boy struggling through final year of primary school as a reluctant writer, while dealing with the growing chaos of his home life.

School Programs

My writing is best suited to middle/upper primary and lower secondary age students. I am happy to tailor programs to suit the needs of individual schools and class groups. However I have outlined four of my most popular programs on the following pages.

If you wish to discuss a possible school visit please contact me direct at mark@markpardoe.com.au

Or through *Booked Out* speakers agency at www.bookedout.com.au

Session Name	Be inspired!
Audience	Upper primary to lower secondary
Description	<p>A fast paced, funny and interactive session where Mark explains how he has come full circle from having his love of writing almost destroyed as a kid, by boring lessons and unsupportive teachers; to rediscovering the passion years later when he became both a parent and a primary school teacher himself.</p> <p>Mark's story is both entertaining and motivating and aims to inspire his audience to always believe in their own abilities.</p>
Topics covered	<p>A short reading from one of Mark's books.</p> <p>How Mark became an author.</p> <p>Where do ideas come from?</p> <p>Some golden rules for great writing.</p>
Objectives	<p>To entertain and inspire students to see both reading and writing as a rewarding activity.</p> <p>To give students the confidence to overcome negative criticism.</p> <p>To show students how they can expand on their own experiences to form the basis of their writing.</p>
Duration	50-60 minutes
Requirements	Projector or EWB

Session Name	Weird words
Audience	Upper primary to lower secondary
Description	<p>A fun, interactive session where Mark uses <i>The Andy Flegg Survival Guide</i> to introduce a hidden world of rare and interesting words.</p> <p>Using a series of whole group activities, Mark aims to inspire students to improve their own writing by stretching their own vocabulary and seeking out more creative ways of expressing themselves.</p>
Topics covered	<p><i>The Andy Flegg Survival Guide</i>.</p> <p>Rare and amusing words.</p> <p>Expanding vocabulary to improve narrative writing.</p>
Objectives	<p>To entertain and inspire students to see reading and writing as an enjoyable activity.</p> <p>To encourage students to consider the importance of vocabulary in their own writing.</p>
Duration	50-60 minutes
Requirements	Projector or EWB

Session Name	Keeping it real
Audience	Upper primary to lower secondary
Description	<p>An interactive session that challenges students to think about the importance of knowing their characters and writing with an authentic voice.</p> <p>Using a mix of humour, visual imagery, student challenges and their own random ideas, Mark shows the audience how to make strong authentic characters the core of all of their writing.</p>
Topics covered	<p>Developing a character profile.</p> <p>Understanding the role of voice.</p> <p>Role play.</p>
Objectives	<p>To highlight the importance of strong characters in fictional writing.</p> <p>To leave students with practical tools that they can apply to construct their own characters.</p> <p>To improve their understanding of a narrative 'voice'</p>
Duration	50-60 minutes
Requirements	Projector or EWB.

Session Name	How to write a great narrative
Audience	Upper primary to lower secondary.
Description	<p>A full one day program that steps through each stage of the creative writing process, from finding the seed of an idea to the final edit.</p> <p>This program is best broken into 3 separate 60-75 minute sessions.</p>
Topics covered	<p>Finding great ideas.</p> <p>Plotting and planning.</p> <p>Creating strong characters.</p> <p>Starting and finishing.</p> <p>Story structure.</p> <p>Revising and editing.</p>
Objectives	<p>To demystify the writing process and give students a comprehensive understanding of how to approach constructing their own narratives.</p> <p>To leave students with practical tools that they can apply to improve their own writing.</p> <p>To highlight the importance of each stage of the writing process.</p>
Duration	50-60 minutes
Requirements	Projector or EWB