

WE MAKE  
WRITING  
EXCITING!

WORKSHOP BROCHURE

For schools based in the City of London, Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets



EVERY YEAR WE WORK WITH

1,000+ CHILDREN

40 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

20 SECONDARY SCHOOLS

# WHY ATTEND A WORKSHOP AT THE MINISTRY OF STORIES?



We know that students can sometimes find writing in school difficult, but we can help.

We offer the space, support and inspiration to bring the excitement back to writing.

**Our workshops** deliver unique, real world experience for children that translates to positive results back in the classroom.

We offer workshops that:

- Support every student, with a high adult to child ratio
- Get them excited about writing and powerfully motivate disengaged students
- Provide every child with a bespoke, professional-quality publication, giving them pride in their work and a true sense of achievement
- Complement teachers' work in their delivery of the statutory requirements (English framework; May 2015)

**'An inspiring location, high-quality published outcomes, lots of adults to support, all ideas accepted no matter how silly!'**

Class Teacher

**'The published work was really powerful for children; giving a purpose, a celebration and an audience for writing.'**

Primary Head

**'The Ministry helps people with their imaginations. I think I'm more imaginative now I've come to the workshops.'**

Berkay, aged 11



# MENTORING

Every workshop we provide is staffed by volunteer Writing Mentors. Our mentors undergo thorough training in order to provide the best possible support and encouragement for young writers.

Each student will have the attention of a writing mentor who can help them get motivated, be a sounding board for ideas or offer some gentle encouragement.

This high level of support allows each student to get the most out of our sessions.

**‘The story ministers are very helpful and a bit more fun than teachers... they have a whole mind of writing!’**

Class Teacher

**‘The message given to the children was that writing is very cool’**

Michael Kelly, John Scurr Primary School, Tower Hamlets





# MOTIVATION

We get children excited about every kind of storytelling.

Children are genuinely motivated to write, excited by being treated as professionals and having the freedom to create and tell stories.

We can also work with hard-to-reach groups of students who are disengaged from writing, and get them fired up to put pen to paper.

'A reluctant boy writer was incredibly inspired and wrote almost twice as much as usual. The session was particularly engaging for the boys, and in conjunction with other initiatives at school, has been a good experience to show that writing really can be fun!'

Class Teacher

'I think the session really helped those children who struggled with confidence when it came to writing. They were able to produce something really special that they were proud of and help them to realise they are all good writers.'

Class Teacher



# MAGiC

In need of creative inspiration or new ideas to use in the classroom? Teachers leave our morning workshops as fired up as their students.

We also provide CPD (which can be delivered to departments or the whole school) on using creative writing to improve confidence, motivation and literacy.

**'If you focus really hard and really work hard, you can do anything.'**

Year 4 student

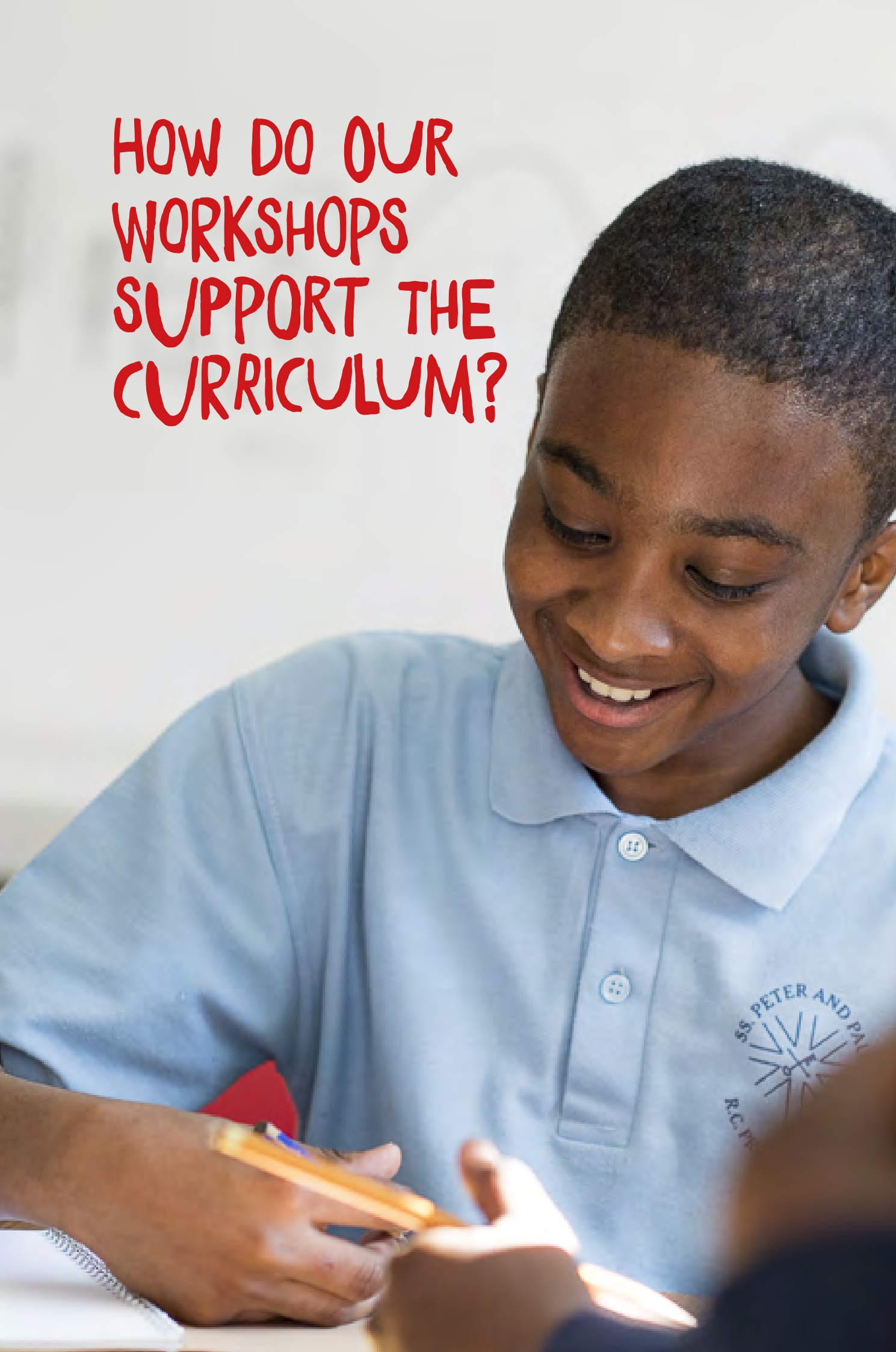
**'They (the children) feel differently about writing, they're more engaged, have more ideas'**

Deputy Head at a primary school

ON A SCALE OF 1-5  
(WITH 1 BEING NOT  
SUCCESSFUL AND  
5 BEING  $\geq$ VERY  
SUCCESSFUL)  
TEACHERS GAVE  
US  $\gg$ THESE $\rightarrow$   
RATINGS

THE QUALITY OF TEACHING/FACILITATION:	4.5
THE STRUCTURE AND PACE OF THE SESSION:	4.4
THE QUALITY OF WRITING PRODUCED:	4
THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCES PROVIDED:	4.4
THE MOS AS A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:	5
THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE CHILDREN:	4.8
BRINGING FUN AND PLAYFULNESS TO WRITING:	4.9

# HOW DO OUR WORKSHOPS SUPPORT THE CURRICULUM?



We get pupils motivated to write, with a clear sense of what makes a good story and how narrative devices can be used to full effect. This supports the new English national curriculum in these key areas of writing:

## **Key stage 2:**

### **Years 3 & 4**

- Draft and write, creating characters, setting and plot
- Evaluate and edit, assessing the effectiveness of writing
- Read aloud their own writing

### **Years 5 & 6**

- Draft and write, describing settings, characters and atmosphere and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action
- Evaluate and edit, assessing the effectiveness of writing

## **Key stage 3:**

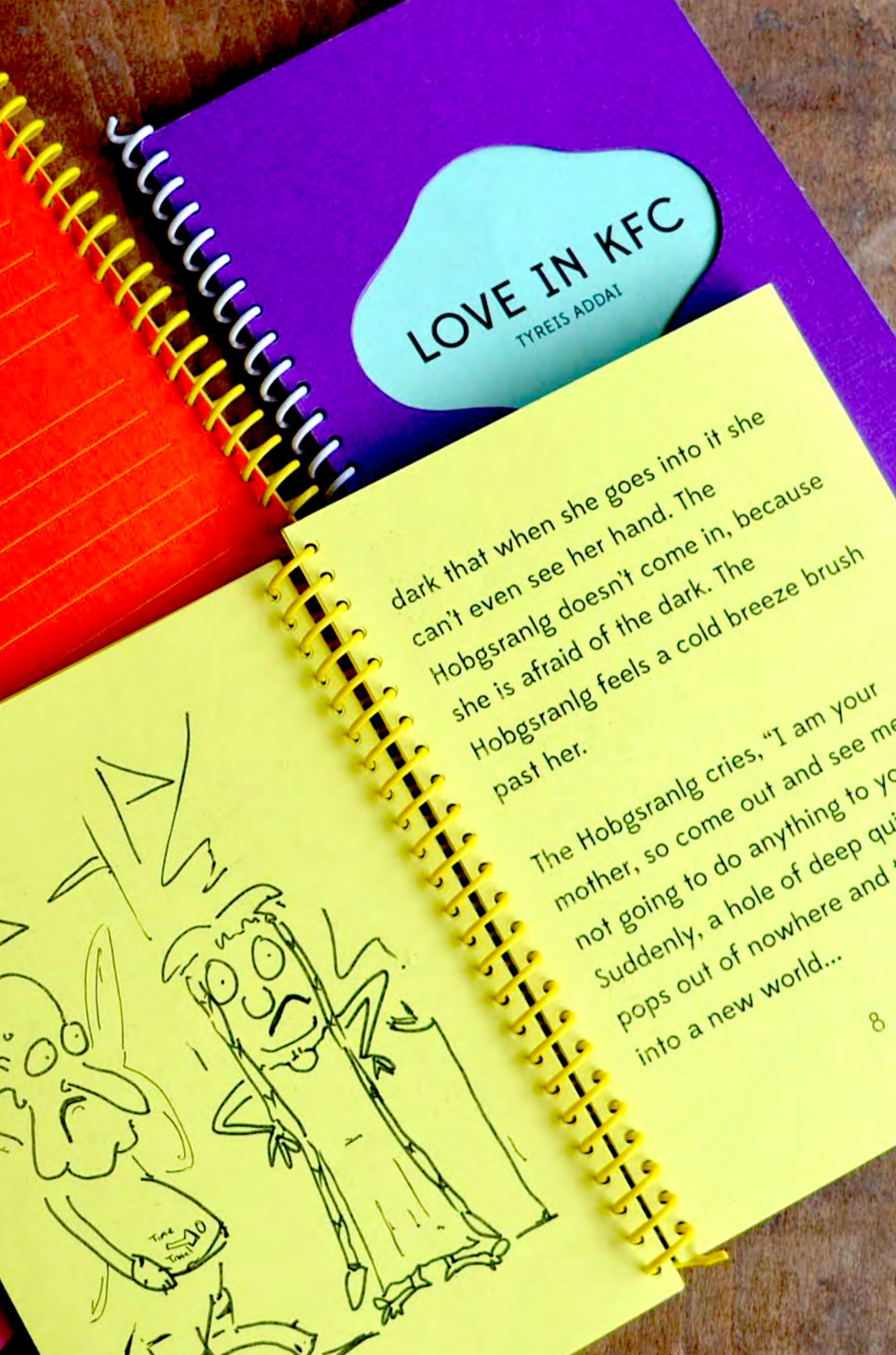
- Write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for pleasure and information, through stories, scripts, poetry and other imaginative writing
- Plan, draft, edit and proof-read

At the end of our workshops, each student leaves as a published author with a sense of pride, achievement and joy.

**‘The children were very proud to return to school with beautifully presented and bound stories.’**

Michael Kelly, John Scurr Primary School, Tower Hamlets





Workshop One

# STORYMAKING

For: All years (Primary)

Entering Hoxton Street Monster Supplies, children are introduced to a space where imagination, fun and playfulness are key. Once they've decided on a password and entered the Ministry via the secret door, children meet the character of the Chief, who is fed up with bad stories and very sceptical about their ability to write any good ones!

Thus begins a jam-packed two hour workshop where children begin their story collaboratively, then with the help of the mentors, write their own endings for the characters and scenarios they've created.

Every participant leaves as a published author, with their own beautiful, bespoke publication. This workshop is a proven hit with all primary year groups and their teachers alike.

## Outcomes

Increased confidence, individual motivation to write, understanding of narrative devices such as character, conflict and climax, collaborative work, imaginative writing.

Cost: £400





## Workshop Two

# COMIC BOOKS!

For: Years 7 & 8 (Secondary) | Years 5 & 6 (Primary)

Designed for older students (years 5-7), this workshop, co-developed with our friends at NoBrow Comics, aims to introduce students to the art of visual storytelling.

This workshop will build children's confidence in sketching, help them unlock their imaginations in creating characters, and guide them through the process of creating narratives, told in words and pictures.

A great workshop for keen manga and comics fans, as well as those less engaged / confident with writing.

### Outcomes

Visual literacy, increased confidence, understanding of narrative devices such as character, conflict and climax, use of dialogue to create character and advance the action, writing effectively for an audience.

Cost: £400

# HOW TO BOOK



Visit our [website](#) to complete a provisional booking form. We will then get in touch to discuss the best time for you to visit.

Any questions? Please call us on 020 7729 4159.

## **INTRODUCTORY OFFER**

If you book a workshop between September and December 2015 you'll receive a 20% discount!

Email [writing@ministryofstories.org](mailto:writing@ministryofstories.org) to find out more.

‘Before, I wasn’t really bothered to write stories and stuff but now I’ve bought a book and I write stories in it at home. Funny stories, some boring stories and some exciting adventure stories. I keep them secret but when I have a lot of them, I’m going to put them all together in a book and people can read them.’

Year 4 student

# FAQS



## Is my school/class eligible?

We are currently able to welcome primary and secondary schools based in the boroughs of the City of London, Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets.

## How many children can I book onto a workshop?

We usually take one class for a workshop, or a group of up to 30 children.

## Can you match your workshop to what we're studying?

If you would like us to tailor the workshop, please email us on **writing@ministryofstories.org** and we can see if it's possible to match your workshop to your study subject.

## Can the workshop be adjusted for students with SEN?

Yes, we are happy to adjust workshops for children with special educational needs. Please email us on **writing@ministryofstories.org** with your requirements and we will get in touch.

## What days and times do you run? Can these be altered?

We run school workshops on Wednesday and Thursday mornings during term time. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer alternatives.

Any other questions, please get in touch on:  
**writing@ministryofstories.org**



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NOT ALL  
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HOLLYWOOD IS MAKING  
FILM. THESE  
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BOOK YOUR  
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DOWN? pawing  
your monster motor?  
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BOBBY GURGL  
me over me 10p  
Vlad

SUPPORT EQUAL RIGHTS

DID YOU KNOW WITCHES STILL GET  
23% LESS THAN WIZARDS FOR PERFORMING  
THE SAME SPELLS? DID YOU KNOW THE  
WITCH IS 90% MORE LIKELY TO BE BURNED  
AT THE STAKE THAN A WIZARD? THIS  
THE 15TH CENTURY ANYMORE. MAY  
US

DISTRUSTERS  
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PINK, SQUISHY, TASTY  
MURDEROUS TENDENCIES.  
LAST SEEN IN GLASS JAR  
CALL DR F. 02073966055

EAST LONDON

AREA.

POTTERGEIST OPERATE IN THE

- Product design and copywriting
- How to write great speeches
- Investigating mysterious props to create short fiction
- Designing a museum of curated childhood objects
- Writing letters to the great and powerful

‘THE MINISTRY OF STORIES  
TAKES THE WORK OUT OF  
WRITING AND MAKES IT FUN.’  
YEAR 5 STUDENT



**MINISTRY OF STORIES**

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