

Courses, Workshops and Talks from Alec Williams: February 2015

All titles are general, and can be altered; the content can also be tailored to the needs of a particular host, or a particular audience.

Reading for Pleasure: Why it's Important, and How to make it Happen

This course is about how to create 'a reading school', where students read for enjoyment, staff model the pleasure of reading, and the whole school shows, throughout the year, that it values reading, with a lively school library; events; competitions; and other activities that highlight the fun of reading. The topic can be adapted for either Primary or Secondary schools, and can include special emphasis on other topics, e.g. Special Needs children.

Promoting Reading

A topic which can be adapted for either primary or secondary teachers. The importance of reading for pleasure; holding book events; the role of the school library; 'reading round the school'; linking with the public library service, etc.

Reaching the reluctant reader

What is a reluctant reader? Books that will appeal; ways of promoting to reluctant readers. Practical ideas for schools and libraries. Working through peers and parents.

The School Library and Special Needs

A course first offered in 2011, which looks at the range of special needs in schools, and offers practical suggestions of how the library can respond. Areas covered include: the educational background, implications for libraries, finding resources, creating the environment, and information literacy considerations.

Fiction across the Curriculum

A look at using fiction, folk tales and poetry across all curriculum topics. The advantages are explained, plus a wealth of suggestions for books and authors to use, and how to obtain them.

Books in the Early Years

The role of stories, pictures and rhymes in the early years. A course for all those working with Early Years children, in schools, nurseries, and playgroups.

The School Library

An introductory course for primary schools, which can include any or all of the following elements (or others, on request!):

- The value of libraries
- Stock selection and promotion
- Organising materials
- Promoting the library
- Budgets and funding
- Library design
- Information skills
- Writing a library policy

Reading across Cultures

A new look at encouraging reading, with special emphasis on multicultural provision.

Library Design

A one-day course looking at design principles for school libraries, well-illustrated with a large number of photographs. The course looks first at the future of learning, and goes on to examine a range of topics including location, size, key ingredients, layout, furnishings, shelving, guiding, and other aspects. It aims to cover situations from a new build or major refurbishment, right down to a selection of practical low-cost ideas that will refresh an existing space.

Everyone's Reading

A course based on the School Library Association publication of the same name, about promoting reading to a range of specific target groups. Normally aimed at secondary level.

Storytelling

Essentially a practical course, which can be based on using picture books, and/or re-telling from memory. Plenty of exemplar stories are told, to inspire, and there are lots of opportunities for participants to join in, in a non-threatening way (I don't normally use recording or videoing exercises!). Also includes the theory ('Why tell stories?'), and information about books that 'tell well'. This course can be directed towards Early Years, Primary School children, or Secondary level.

Poetry

What is poetry? The power of poetry. An introduction to contemporary children's poets, and a look at key anthologies. Handouts include a long list of practical ideas for using poetry in schools and libraries. A strong element of performance throughout, to inspire.

Using Stories with Teenagers: Storytelling and 'book talking' activities to make reading fun

A workshop showing how a range of material can be read aloud to students, and how students can use performance and audio to reach their peers

Boys into Books: How reading for pleasure contributes to boys' achievement

A day course on motivating boys to read for pleasure, exploring the national picture, summarising research, and then examining books that will appeal, activities, role models, ICT, the library environment, etc.

Building a Whole-School Reading Community: Enjoying reading throughout school and curriculum

A wide-ranging look at reading for pleasure and how to embed it across the school

Reading for Pleasure throughout the Year: Using libraries, Media and ICT

A workshop which demonstrates the many occasions throughout the school in which reading can be celebrated, and surveys both national and regional initiatives. It also looks at using film, TV and ICT to promote reading.

Enjoying Books Together

An entertaining short course (or one-off talk to parents), reinforcing the value of books, and ways of sharing and supporting the reading process.