

## Key Curriculum and Themes

- English, HASS, Science
- Health & PE
- Responding to & examining literature, interpreting, analysing & evaluating, in writing your own stories
- History - examining & analysis in light of today's values and culture
- Environment and nature
- Health and wellbeing, relationships and mental health
- Society and culture

- Relationships and friendships, dealing with bullying
- Different types of families
- Grief and Loss
- Courage and self-belief
- Mental health, chronic illness, disability & diversity
- How history informs the present and future
- Environment and Conservation
- Our relationship with Nature
- Learning from the past and how our memories of experiences in and with nature are vital to conservation.

## Weaving Nature, Magic and History with Dr Helen Edwards Workshops for Years 4 - 9

[helenedwardswrites.com](http://helenedwardswrites.com)





# workshop topics

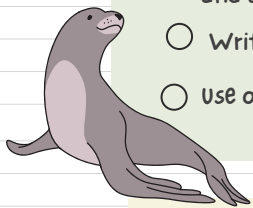
Workshops can be adapted to suit year levels. Aspects of nature, magic and history can be combined, or focus on one or two aspects relevant to your current class topics!

I loved having Helen Edwards here to see and talk to us about her amazing book and photos from the time. I found it so cool the way she finds her ideas and how much care goes into her books. It was interesting to find out how long it took her to become an author and her journey towards that goal.  
Caitlyn Burns, Bright P-12



## Characterisation and Diversity

- Point of view and which to choose
- Creating a complication for a character in reaching their goal, or solving a problem
- Choosing real vs fictional characters and settings
- Writing diverse voices
- Use of metaphor in describing emotions



## How to Use Time in Stories

- Why use time differently in stories?
- Time travel, time slip and other ideas to play with time
- Using time as a tool for characters to find their way and understand themselves and their problems
- Blending the past with the present and/or the future
- Blending fact with fiction



## Worldbuilding: Past, Present & Future

- Setting a story in a real place, vs fictional
- Artefacts & research in writing historical fiction
- Using your senses in writing to bring the reader inside the story
- Research skills for writing from history
- Legends, fairy tales and folk stories and using aspects of these in your writing
- How to add a dash of magic
- Different types of historical fiction



## Writing Nature and Environment

- Why nature is good for our mental health
- Writing nature as a character in a story
- Describing nature and environment in a range of ways
- Having animals as characters in stories
- Eco-anxiety, climate change & hope



Dear Helen Edwards,

The reason I am writing to you is because I would like to sincerely thank you for coming to our school and telling us about your own experience writing a novel. I really enjoyed you coming to our school, I can't wait to start reading the Rebels of Mount Buffalo because you have engaged me into it already!

You really inspired me, that even after a couple hiccups with your writing, you kept trying and trying, look where you are now! I loved learning about guide Alice, her strength, and how a story off of the radio inspired you to write this and come up with a marvellous story title. Thank you for such a wonderful experience!

Sincerely Matilda, St Patrick's Primary School Wangaratta.



Wednesday 18th, October

**St Patrick's Wangaratta**

To Helen,

I am writing this letter to you to tell you how gratefully appreciative I am of your effort to come all the way from Adelaide to our school and teach us about Guide Alice and the amazing photos she took. I learned heaps and for fluency I put your Kelpie on the titanic, I hope that he can swim.

the things you thought me were about Guide Alice who tracked up the mountain and took breathtaking photos from waterfalls to people that took my breath away the bogging moths sound so cool and sharing your own story in front of some 91 students! Now that takes some guts. The cameras. I can't believe that they took photos, so old but in great condition so as you near the end of this letter I want you to know on the behalf of me and my school thank you! For coming in to our school and sharing your own personal story.

**THANK YOU CHARLIE!**

