

Author Bio:

Charlotte is an Adelaide-based writer who worked as a civil engineer and physics teacher before rediscovering her love for children's literature. She now writes picture books, middle-grade fiction and feature articles.

Charlotte's debut picture book, *All Bodies are Good Bodies* was published by Hardie Grant Egmont in January 2020. The first novel in her middle-grade series, *Edie's Experiments*, published in February 2020 with Penguin Random House, with Book 2 to follow in July.

As well as writing for children, Charlotte writes feature articles for a range of publications including Good Health magazine, MiNDFOOD magazine, the Australian Educator, Engineers Australia, Domain online and The Sydney Morning Herald online.

As a former teacher, Charlotte is an experienced speaker and workshop presenter. Her sessions can be customised to the age group and curriculum, with topics ranging from 'Writing picture books' for early years primary students, through to the 'Craft of creative writing' for all levels of primary and 'Becoming a science writer' for secondary students.

Charlotte loves sharing her passion for science, creativity and stories with children of all ages.

Workshops

(1-1.5 hours)

Writing picture books (lower primary: Prep – Year 2, tailored to the age group and curriculum):

In this session, students explore the process of writing a picture book. We talk about character, plot and structure, using real-life examples from recently-published picture books. Students will have the opportunity to develop and draw their own character, and we will practice our writing skills by creating a group narrative.

Topics include:

- Creating characters
- Developing plot
- Understanding the picture book format
- Student Q and A

The craft of creative writing (Upper primary and secondary, tailored to the age group and curriculum):

This session focuses on the craft of creative writing. Through a series of interactive exercises, students explore what makes a great story, including developing believable characters, understanding plot and mastering pacing.

Topics include:

- Characterisation
- Story plot and structure
- Action and pace
- Finding your unique ‘voice’
- Beginnings and endings
- Mastering dialogue
- Writing tips
- Student Q & A

Ideas and inspiration (upper primary/lower secondary, tailored to the age group and curriculum):

This session focuses on ideas. Where do an author’s ideas come from, and how are they developed into stories?

Using real-life examples from her books, Charlotte will share how she developed story ideas into polished manuscripts, ready for publication. Students will learn brainstorming techniques, and will have the opportunity to workshop and develop their own ideas.

Topics include:

- Brainstorming ideas and fleshing out concepts
- Developing great characters
- Planning stories
- Exercising your creative muscles
- Overcoming ‘writer’s block’
- Student Q & A

Writing feature articles (Secondary, tailored to the age group and curriculum):

In this session students learn the fundamentals of writing feature articles, under the guidance of a freelance science writer. Through guided discussion and interactive activities, students will have the opportunity to brainstorm ideas, create story pitches and practice their feature-writing skills.

Topics include:

- Story ideas and angles
- Structuring a feature article
- Hooking the reader
- Interviewing experts, drafting and editing an article
- Researching relevant publications, and pitching your ideas
- Feature writing tips
- Student Q & A

Presentations

(45-60 mins)

Becoming an author (Primary, tailored to the age group and curriculum):

How do you write a book? How long does it take? Where do you find an illustrator, and how do you publish your work?

With behind-the-scene insight from Charlotte's published books, students will explore how an author's idea is turned into a published book.

Topics include:

- Recording ideas
- Developing your writing craft
- Exercising your creativity
- Publishing a book
- Student Q & A

How are books made? (Upper primary to secondary, tailored to the age group and curriculum):

This session delves into the publication process. How does an author publish a book? When does an illustrator get involved? How are books marketed in the current digital age?

Using real-life examples from Charlotte's books, including behind-the-scene storyboarding and illustration roughs, students will learn how picture books and novels are published.

Students will explore all stages of the publication process, from an author coming up with an idea through to a book ending up in a bookstore.

Topics include:

- Transforming ideas into narratives
- Understanding the editorial process
- Collaborating with illustrators
- Designing book covers
- Working with editors and publishers
- The role of marketing and publicity
- Student Q & A

Becoming a science writer (secondary, tailored to the age group and curriculum):

Think science and creativity don't mix? Think again.

This session explores the process of becoming a science writer. What do you need to study?

Who can you write for? How do you get published? What themes can you write on?

Drawing on her unique background in engineering and science writing, Charlotte will explore the process of becoming a science writer.

Topics include:

- Starting out as a writer
- Developing your writing skills
- Building your portfolio
- Trends in science articles
- The role of social media in science publishing
- Student Q & A