



The Sunny Workshop – Workshop Overview

The Sunny Workshop draws on two main elements:

- My Journey, via asthma, into writing and creating characters from experiences.
- My semi-autobiographical book about a boy growing up in the 70's: Sunny.

The session is designed to be very interactive (lots of questions for the children), educational and fun. Children hear about the challenges that racism and sectarianism posed in the 70's. They get to create two creature-characters that become the two tribes... they are given characteristics and a question is posed at the end.

– *This can be done as an assembly presentation, where I draw the creature the children create - (15 – 30 minutes) or as below – I run a class workshop (50-60 minutes).*

Part 1 (suitable for 8 – 16 years; 25 mins)

- I introduce myself and tell the children how the various elements of my life effected my writing. (Working with bears, playing in rock bands)
- I ask the children if they know anyone who has asthma and talk about the affliction that, in its own strange way, led me to write my first book.
- I explain what asthma is and talk about managing the disease and doing great things despite it. Just like James Peck in the Peck Chronicles.
- I set the scene for the book, Sunny with a true tales from my past.
- Children get to hear what it was like in school during the 70's.

Part 2 (suitable for 8 – 12 years; 25 mins)

- I tell the children the 'trick' I use to come up with new creatures. I divide the class in two and we design two separate creatures which split into two tribes.
- We do this by rolling out two large strips of wallpaper – and the children draw and describe the creatures using their imagination.
- Thinking about description, how it might behave, how it might sound, dialogue etc
- After 5-10 minutes, we review and talk about Imagination and the two tribes they have created.
- I talk about my trip to Bali and how there were over 11,000 people discovered in the jungle, almost undisturbed, for 700 years. We discuss how these people split into 19 separate, antagonistic tribes.

- We discuss, with the help of read passages from Sunny how attitudes to differences have changed between 1970 and now.
- Using the Amnesty observed on Christmas Day in World War 1, I ask the question: If your two tribes did not get on, how might you fix this?

Question Time (Suitable for 8 – 12 years; 5 mins)

We have an open question time.

Equipment needed

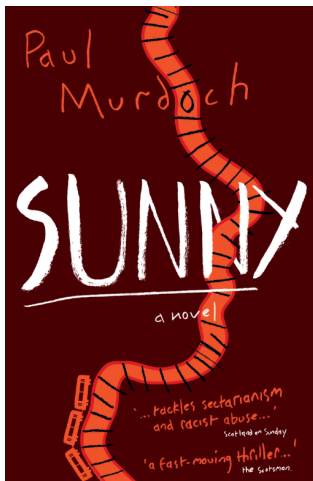
- Ample space – for children to work either side of some rolled out wallpaper. *If multiple classes are going to be seen, it is better to have them come into one single area, with everything all set up. But I can 'work around' this if space is not possible.*
- Flipchart and marker
- Screen, white wall or link to a display system. I have my own projector and use a Mac Air.

(please email me at – paulmurdoch1@gmail.com or phone 07784235151 if there are any issues)

Selling my books - before, during and after my visit. As a full-time author, it is always a great help if I am able to sell my books at the event. This works best if there is a communication to parents a few days before I visit with an enclosed pre-order form. Children can bring money on the day to buy books and have them dedicated and signed. Also, there are often children present who, after experiencing the session, realise they would like a dedicated and signed copy. I can provide an order form to enable this. ***I carry author stock of all my books***

Books available listed below:

Sunny - Luck seems to be on young Sunny Wilson's side when he survives a major road accident. But was he meant to walk away? Sunny is convinced someone has it in for him – a sense strengthened when an attempt is made to abduct him from hospital. Once out, Sunny is faced with his town's ongoing sectarian divisions. They boil over when someone attacks a train carrying pupils from a rival school. Sunny knows the culprit's identity, but the risks of revealing it are high. All Sunny's troubles seem to stem back to the crash. So, he follows a hunch to try to solve that mystery...and finds his life in peril all over again. (Ages: 9-Adult / Themes: differences, bullying, racism, adventure, attitudes in the past compared to now /Price: £7.50. Bulk discounts available)



Talisman – Book 1 of ‘The Peck Chronicles’. James Peck’s father is missing and he sets off to find him with the help of some very strange creatures. An exciting fantasy adventure full magic, monsters, courage, determination and family. James has to find the Talisman of Denthan if he has to have any chance of stopping the evil wizard Dendralon and finding his father, but no one knows what it looks like. (Ages: 7-14 / Themes: quest story, magic, monsters, adventure, mystery, fantasy, family tensions, morals, /Price: £6.50. Bulk discounts available)

Citadel – Book 2 of ‘The Peck Chronicles’. James Peck, battles his way through a dying world in an effort to stop a Hedra wizard from saving his own kind at the expense of all others. A fast-paced fantasy adventure where James tries to save a whole world, his family, and everything he loves before time runs out. (Ages: 7-14 / Themes: quest story, magic, monsters, adventure, mystery, fantasy, family tensions, morals, /Price: £6.50. Bulk discounts available)

Tyrant – Book 3 of ‘The Peck Chronicles’. James Peck soon discovers that there is a second gateway in Drumfintley and he is soon drawn into another adventure on the world of Artilis. He has to pit his wits and his magic against an even great force than before in order to save Earth and everyone he loves. (Ages: 7-14 / Themes: quest story, magic, monsters, adventure, mystery, fantasy, family tensions, morals, /Price: £6.50. Bulk discounts available)



Windscape – an eco-thriller for children that explores the topic of wind farms in the beautiful setting of Western Scotland. When protestors come onto their farm Hamish MacLeod has a heart attack and is taken to Glasgow. When Jenny finds out what is really going behind the plan to build a wind farm on their farm, she has to save her father and protect their future. (Ages: 7-14 / Themes: adventure, Scotland, environmental issues, mystery, friendship, morals, /Price: £6.50. Bulk discounts available)

The Egg Thief - Young Jenny MacLeod and her friend, Pavel, are caught up in an exciting adventure on the Western Isles of Scotland. While caretaking her uncle’s farm on the island of Barra, Jenny and Pavel are embroiled in a plot to steal some very precious sea eagle eggs from the cliffs of Mull. A mysterious stranger is set to pay a fortune to an egg thief and will stop at nothing. Jenny and Pavel try

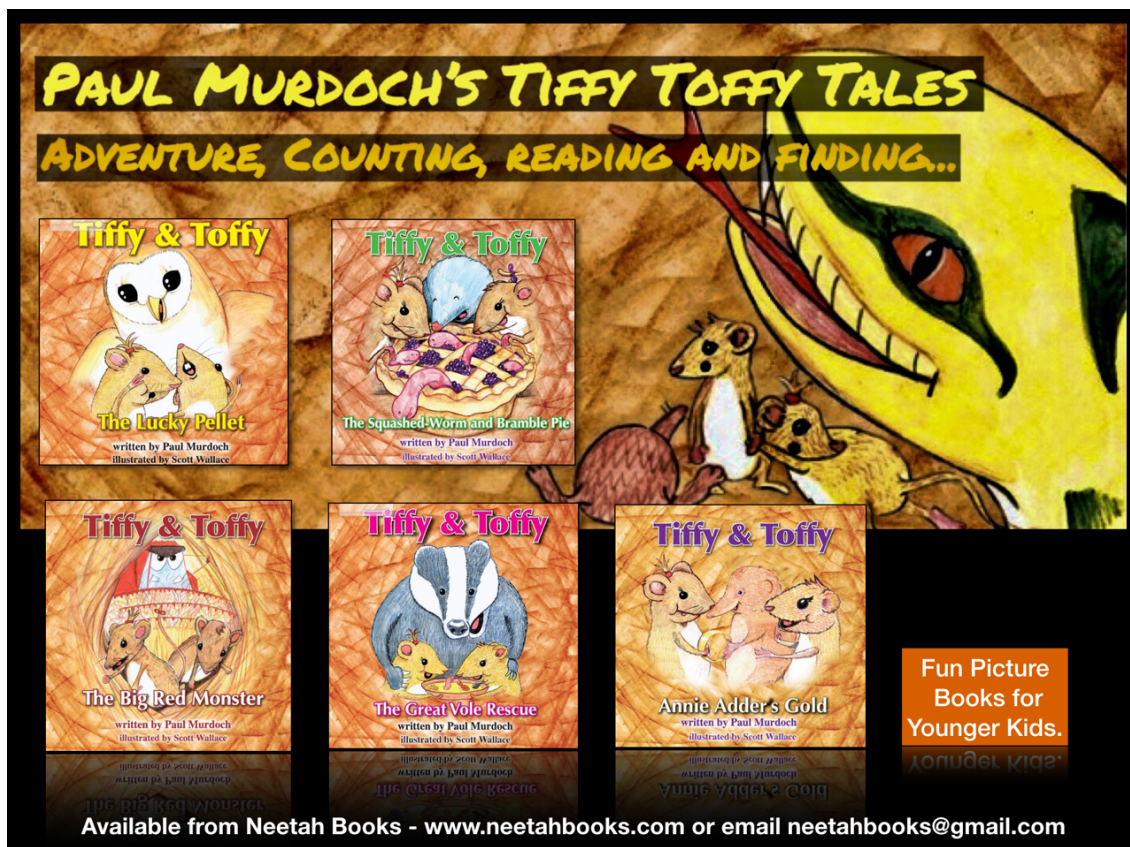
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to do the right thing, but soon face a series of life-threatening events that will shake their very foundations. (Ages: 7-14 / Themes: adventure, Scotland, environmental issues, mystery, friendship, morals, /Price: £6.50. Bulk discounts available)



The Tiffy Toffy Picture books – five colourful picture books that feature two little mice and their adventures on the farm. Safe, family books with counting and finding elements. (Ages: 3-7 / Themes: adventure, animals, birds, friendship, morals, counting, finding /Price: £6.50 each. Bulk discounts available)



Paul Murdoch - Evaluation Sheet

I am always keen to improve, therefore happy to receive any feedback you may have.

What was the most useful part of the workshop?

What part of the workshop could be improved?

General Comments

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