

## National Conference 2020: Writing for Pleasure

**Saturday 28 March 2020, 10.00 - 16.00**  
**Canterbury Christ Church University**

Old Sessions House, North Holmes Road, Canterbury CT1 1NX

Our National Conference 2020 provides the opportunity to engage with writers and educationalists who all work with children and writing in different ways.

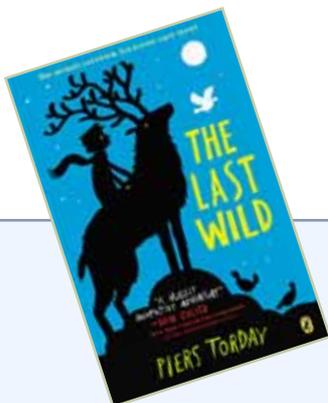
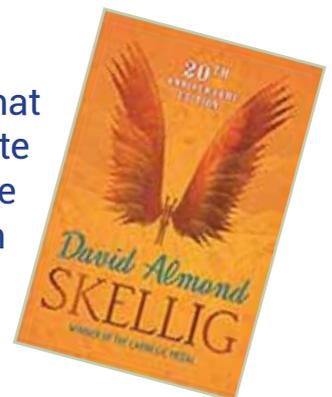
As a delegate you will learn:

- How writing is taught effectively.
- How to attend to children's affective needs.
- How to create communities of writers.
- How to foster children's enjoyment in the craft of writing.
- How publishing plays a role in creating a sense of satisfaction.



Our keynote speakers David Almond and Piers Torday will offer a writer's perspective on writing and the workshops will provide opportunities to engage in different kinds of writing and feel the pleasure that it brings.

Each workshop will provide practical ideas that can be used with children to inspire them to write with pleasure. The conference will reinvigorate your relationship with writing and the ways in which you support the children you work with to become writers themselves.



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## PROGRAMME

09.00 – 09.30	Arrival and registration with coffee/tea
09.30 – 09.45	Welcome and Introduction: Cathy Burnett, President UKLA
09.45 – 10.15	Writing For Pleasure (Literacy for Pleasure)
10.30 – 11.30	Morning workshops
11.45 – 12.30	Keynote 1: David Almond
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch, bookshops and book signing
13.30 – 14.30	Afternoon workshops
14.45 – 15.30	Keynote 2: Piers Torday
15.30 – 16.00	Q&A and book signing

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
<b>1</b>	Adisa How do you create a space that welcomes creativity and sharing?	Adisa How do you create a space that welcomes creativity and sharing?
<b>2</b>	Nikki Gamble & Phil Ferguson Writing non-fiction with heart and voice	Nikki Gamble & Phil Ferguson Writing non-fiction with heart and voice
<b>3</b>	Miriam Nash Comedy Writing with Ministry of Stories	Miriam Nash Comedy Writing with Ministry of Stories
<b>4</b>	Writing For Pleasure teachers' symposium Tobias Hayden, Sadie Phillips, Ben Harris	Nicole Winter Free Choice Writing and Sharing within the Primary Classroom
<b>5</b>	Alison Wilcox Personal Narrative	Alison Wilcox Personal Narrative
<b>6</b>	Jonny Walker and Jo Castro Writes of Passage	Jonny Walker and Jo Castro Writes of Passage

# KEYNOTES AND WORKSHOPS

## KEYNOTES

### Piers Torday

Join award-winning author, Piers Torday, for an animated and thought-provoking session, in which he will discuss the value of sharing stories and the power of childhood reading and writing for pleasure.

### David Almond

Writing can seem difficult but it's also a form of play. A published book looks perfect but that's an illusion. We're imperfect beings in an imperfect world. The creative process is messy, playful, painstaking, childlike, demanding, weird. Writing is an act of exploration and discovery. David will talk about his own writing processes, how he develops stories from scattered fragments and initial ideas. He will explore the beauty and magic of words, sentences, punctuation, paragraphs and pages. He will explore the joys of notebooks and pencil cases, and the power of the will. He will show that the imagination is spontaneous and accessible to us all, that writing is a fundamental and often joyful human act. It doesn't matter how old or young we are. It doesn't matter how 'clever' we might think we are. Each of us has stories within just waiting to be told, and poems and songs just waiting to be sung.

## WORKSHOPS

### Adisa: How do you create a space that welcomes creativity and sharing?

In this interactive poetry workshop you will learn to be comfortable looking silly as you play vocal and physical poetry games. You will dance with metaphor and rhyme as you explore the world of image and rhythm. Then share your creations in a popup theatre style presentation. Come join the Verbalizer as you

discover exciting ways to bring poetry alive in the classroom.

### Nikki Gamble and Phil Ferguson: Writing non-fiction with heart and voice

With the help of a wide variety of example texts, we will demonstrate how young writers' use of their personal voice can make non-fiction writing strikingly fresh and engaging. We will present different kinds of writing projects, discuss how children can bring themselves, their passions and interests into their writing, and make the claim that telling it like a story is a good thing.

### Miriam Nash: Comedy Writing with Ministry of Stories

Ministry of Stories is a creative writing centre in East London that champions the writer in every child. We teamed up with BBC History to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Monty Python's Flying Circus and produce new comedy by and for young people. In this workshop, you'll learn how to create comic characters and situations with KS2 and 3 students. You'll watch comedy sketches by our young writers and have a go at inventing characters who are unsuitable for their roles and writing short scenes where it all goes wrong. The workshop comes with a free teaching resource ready for classroom use.

### Writing For Pleasure Teachers' Symposium

#### Tobias Hayden

This talk will focus on some aspects of a Writing for Pleasure pedagogy. Principally, teaching children how to discover and take control of the writing process, introducing and using notebooks and personal project

journals and using pupil conferencing to develop writers and teachers.

### **Sadie Phillips**

During this short talk, Sadie Phillips will be sharing her experiences of setting up a Media Club to produce a school Magazine. It's a fantastic way to encourage children to explore journalistic writing, generate their own ideas and take ownership of a producing a publication. Sadie will share practical tips and strategies to engage children in authentic and purposeful writing.

### **Ben Harris**

"One day when I was at primary school, a pop-up technician and artist came to show us how to make a pop-up of our own. I went home that night and made my own book of pop-up animals and wrote about each one." In this short talk, Ben will share the importance of making books in the classroom and the impact it has had on his class. How might making books impact on your class' writing for pleasure?

### **Alison Wilcox: Personal Narrative**

Personal narrative is an important genre that ensures that pupils' lives are an essential part of the writing curriculum, enabling them to use their own experiences and emotions as a source for writing, to find their voices as writers and to use language in a real way for a real purpose that matters to them. The workshop will demonstrate how to use Quick Writes and Free Writing as tools to help generate ideas and 'get words down on paper.' It will also provide ideas how to use the revision process to explore the craft of writing: improving description to add more depth and colour, and improve flow and

structure, skills which can be transferred to other genres.

### **Jonny Walker and Jo Castro: Writes of Passage**

'Writes of Passage' is an ongoing Year 5 writing project led by Jo Castro and Jonny Walker with pupils and teachers from seven Newham primary schools. The design of this year-long project is informed by Michael Rosen's 'Did I Hear You Write?' and the Writing for Pleasure Manifesto developed by Phil Ferguson and Ross Young. In this workshop, Jo and Jonny share insights and the writing of pupils and teachers at the midpoint of the project. Discussion will explore the relationship between freedom and constraint, representations of participants' own lives and the impact of expressive writing on pupils and teachers' writer-identities.

### **Nicole Winter: Free Choice Writing and Sharing within the Primary Classroom**

Mindful of the ever increasing technical writing demands placed upon young children and the overwhelming focus on writing outcomes, this workshop practically explains and explores one method of undertaking regular free choice writing within the primary classroom. In this approach, all members of the class, including the teacher, write alongside each other, with opportunities for writers to share and talk about their writing. We will explore the positive effect that can be created by placing writing enjoyment and writer voice at the heart of a class writing community.



## BIOGRAPHIES

### Adisa the Verbalizer

Adisa was born with a silver tongue and a head full of rhymes. His mango-flavoured metaphors and his larva-fuelled performances are legendary on the performance poetry circuit. In 2003, Adisa landed first place in the national competition, New Performance Poet of the Year. That same year, he was honoured as the Hackney Poet Laureate. He frequently visits schools throughout Europe to deliver performances which have been described as a giant pizza with toppings of African wisdom, observational comedy, life skills, and concert-like call and response routines. He constantly strives to redefine the genre of performance poetry, elevate it to its rightful place on the world stage.



### Jo Castro and Jonny Walker

Jo Castro and Jonny Walker met whilst sharing a class at Park Primary, Stratford. They now work together regularly under the banner of OtherWise Education, leading interschool projects which promote children's and teacher's self-expression, self-confidence and self-understanding. OtherWise projects include Writes of Passage, Poetry Retreats and 'The Iliad Project'.



### Phil Ferguson and Ross Young

Ross Young & Felicity Ferguson are the founders of The Writing For Pleasure Centre. They are also the national writing representatives for The UKLA. Ross led the 2019 research study What is it 'Writing For Pleasure' teachers do that makes the difference? A one year study which observed teachers whose pupils not only attained exceptional academic progress but also wrote with pleasure. They provide research-informed staff development training and school residencies across the UK. Finally, they are the series creators of Power English: Writing (Pearson) and authors of two books Real-World Writing: A handbook for teaching writing with 7-11 year olds and A 'Writing For Pleasure' pedagogy: from theory to practice (Routledge, in press).



### David Almond

David is the author of Skellig, The Dam, The Colour of the Sun, The Savage, The Tightrope Walkers, A Song for Ella Grey, Joe Quinn's Poltergeist and many other novels, stories, picture books, songs, opera librettos and plays. His work is translated into 40 languages, and is widely adapted for stage and screen. He speaks regularly at festivals and conferences around the world. His major awards include The Carnegie Medal, two Whitbread Awards, The Eleanor Farjeon Award, The Michael L Printz Award (USA), Le Prix Sorcier (France) and The Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. In 2010 he won the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the world's most prestigious prize for children's authors. He has been a teacher in primary, special and adult education. He is Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University and lives in Bath and Newcastle upon Tyne.



### Nikki Gamble

Nikki has worked extensively in schools across the UK and internationally. She is the author of Exploring Children's Literature (4th edit) (2019) Co-



author of *Guiding Readers* (2016) and *Poetry by Heart*. Nikki is KS2 reading advisor and series consultant for Oxford University Press and content creator for the Oxford School Improvement and Oxford Owl websites, and she is advisor for Egmont's Reading Ladder. Nikki is Associate Consultant at the University of London, Institute of Education and Honorary Fellow at the University of Winchester.

## Ben Harris

Ben currently teaches Year 6. As well as a classroom teacher, he has worked as an AST and as Assistant Head, and specialises particularly in English and English across the curriculum. Ben writes music and poetry for fun.



## Tobias Hayden

Tobias has been implementing a Writing for Pleasure pedagogy for the last two years and is based in a primary school in East London. More recently, he took part in a piece of research: *What Is It Writing For Pleasure Teachers Do That Makes The Difference?* He will talk about the advantages and challenges of introducing this approach into their practice.



## Miriam Nash

Miriam Nash is a writer, performer and Writing Programme Leader for Ministry of Stories. She has been running creative programmes in schools for



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Naomi Woodis

over 10 years. Her poetry collection, *All the Prayers in the House*, won a Somerset Maugham Award from the Society of Authors.

## Sadie Phillips

Sadie Phillips is a Literacy for Pleasure teacher with an interest in both reading and writing. She is a writer-teacher, who is particularly skilled in creating authentic and purposeful writing projects. She teaches Year 6 English at Blackheath Preparatory School and is currently studying for an MA in Children's Literature. In 2019, Sadie won the UKLA's Reading for Pleasure Teacher of the Year Award (experienced category).



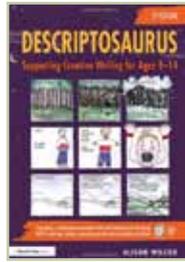
## Piers Torday

Piers Torday began his career in theatre and then television as a producer and writer. His first book for children, *The Last Wild*, was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Award and nominated for the CILIP Carnegie Medal. His second book, *The Dark Wild*, won the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. *There May Be A Castle* was a People's Book Award finalist and a Times Children's Book of the Year. *The Lost Magician* was a Book of the Year in six national newspapers and won the Teach Primary Book Award. The follow up, *The Frozen Sea*, was published in 2019. Piers has also completed an unfinished novel by his late father Paul (author of *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, *The Death of an Owl*) and adapted *The Box of Delights* and *A Christmas Carol* for the stage.



## Alison Wilcox

Alison is the author of the Descriptosaurus series, developed whilst she was a full-time teacher, and as a result of close consultation with struggling writers. Alison gave up full-time teaching to complete the project, and now balances writing, research, in-service education and periods of freelance teaching.



## Nicole Winter

Coming from an early years background, Nicole has worked in a variety of year groups in both large and small schools and currently teach a Year 1/2 class in a small school. Alongside teaching, she has recently completed a Masters in Education, with a dissertation on the concept of writing. She is also a qualified Mantle of the Expert Ambassador.



“The pain and pleasure of writing is something we have likely all experienced. As education professionals we are working with young people who are beginning to explore the ways in which they can use writing to have an impact on audiences both near and far. We want them to understand how writing comes together – how ideas turn into words and how those words can be used to maximum effect. And we want them to understand how pleasurable this can be.

Writing should not be simply about fitting a formula or following rules – writing is about exploration, playfulness and creativity. Writing is about expressing ourselves our way. Writing is about enjoying and valuing the struggle of the process while anticipating the pleasure of a finished piece.”

**Rebecca Austin, Canterbury Christ Church University, UKLA Regional Rep**

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# UKLA

Improving literacy since 1963

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The United Kingdom Literacy Association

**UKLA is an active, supportive community for those working in literacy, language and communication.**

We believe that excellent literacy education should be informed by a range of research.

We value cultural diversity and recognise the complexity of literacy and learning, supporting teaching that is flexible in methods, materials and technologies.

### Our activities

- encourage communication between members and partners
- provide professional development opportunities
- support research
- celebrate achievements through a prestigious programme of awards
- give a public voice to members' concerns.

Our members are a unique community of ITE educators, language and literacy researchers, teachers, headteachers, schools, consultants, librarians and other literacy professionals. This means we are in a strong position to engage in dialogue about research and practice.



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- **Access to academics, writers and ideas you may not otherwise hear about**
- **Access to research grants**
- **And much more!**

Look out for special membership offers on the day! Come and talk to us at the UKLA stall!

