

BACKGROUND

Where it began...

In 2010, I left full time teaching in order to concentrate on writing novels for children.

I qualified as a primary school teacher in 2007 and afterwards taught in the private system, at Garden House School, and in the state system, at Rosendale Primary School.

Whilst working in Key Stage 2, my highlight was teaching Literacy and seeing children discover the joy and excitement that comes from reading and writing. After leaving Rosendale Primary School, I was keen to continue teaching Literacy in some capacity.

I wanted to give children space and time to allow their imaginations to run a little further than is possible during the Literacy hour. I wanted to give children the chance to develop characters and settings so that their stories grew in depth and richness.



A further desire was to see children write stories that they were proud of, that built their confidence in writing. I therefore decided to produce a professionally printed version of the stories and illustrations from each workshop. It is wonderful to see the delight and pleasure children have in their printed work.

Through Creative Beans, I hope to give children the chance to let their imaginations and creativity flourish.

Illustration

During the first Creative Beans workshop, I became aware of the importance of children illustrating their stories. Having had the freedom to develop a story in such depth, children are brimming with visual images by the end of their writing. Therefore, the children's illustrations became an important part of the workshop.

In January 2011 I began speaking to Lucy Panes, a professional illustrator. She agreed, with much enthusiasm, to bring her experience and expertise to the Creative Beans workshops. Her contribution gives children insightful tips and inspiration with their drawing, giving their stories an added dimension.



Julia Wright, February 2011