

ANGELA MARIE JAMES

Author

of Books for both Children & Adults

Performance Poet & Storyteller



AUTHOR VISITS PACK

FOR SCHOOLS, NURSERIES, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, CLUBS,
LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS AND EVENT ORGANISERS



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Format & Costs

Format

School visits typically include an assembly, workshops for classes/year groups, a celebration assembly and a book signing. Shorter visits will be tailored accordingly.

Non-school visits can be tailored to your requirements.

I offer a variety of workshops (listed below). They can be delivered in 45 - 60 minutes and also include a brief Q&A session. You can choose either the same workshop for multiple classes/groups or different workshops for individual classes/groups. The choice is yours.

Costs

IN-PERSON VISITS

2 Days: £700, 1 Day: £400, Half-a-day: £250

Plus travel costs (and hotel costs if necessary)

If in Newcastle-under-Lyme or Stoke-on-Trent:

Hourly (or part) - £150 (for two classes + £10 for each additional class) or £225 (for the whole school)

VIRTUAL VISITS (via Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc)

2 Days: £650, 1 Day: £350, Half-a-day: £200

1 Hour (or part): £125 (for two classes + £10 for each additional class) or £200 (for the whole school)

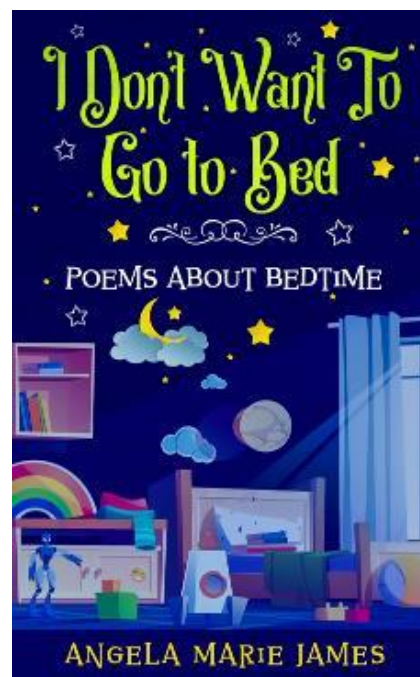
Workshops

I Don't Want To

A fun workshop featuring poetry from my 'I Don't Want To' children's poetry book series. Starting with 'I Don't Want To Go to Bed'. Future titles include 'I Don't Want To Eat That' and 'I Don't Want To Go to School'. Children will be encouraged to write their own poem and perform the same or for younger children write/perform a class poem.

For: 4 to 11 year olds (EYFS, KS1 & KS2). (Ideal for World Book Day, National Poetry Day, World Poetry Day, National Storytelling Week, etc - where it can be delivered to multiple classes/year groups over 1 - 2 days or even half a day).

Curriculum Links: English/Literacy, Poetry, Creative Writing, Performing.



Poetry Can Be About Anything

A fun and interactive workshop which shows how poetry can be about anything! It can be silly, a riddle, involve actions/props, tell a story, be about history, war, space, maths, PSHE, etc and even be spooky. The children/adults will be encouraged to write their own poem and perform the same or for younger children write/perform a class poem.

For: 4 year olds to Adults (EYFS, KS1, KS2, KS3, KS4 & Adults). (Ideal for World Book Day, National Poetry Day, World Poetry Day, National Storytelling Week, etc - where it can be delivered to multiple classes/year groups over 1 - 2 days or even half a day).

Curriculum Links: English/Literacy, Poetry, Creative Writing, Performing.



Workshops

Guess the Animal

A fun, silly and interactive workshop featuring poetry and stories from my upcoming 'Guess the Animal' book series (due out in 2027). Titles include 'Guess the Farm Animal', 'Guess the Zoo Animal', 'Guess the Dinosaur' and 'Guess the Minibeast'. Children will get to pretend to be animals themselves and see and hear animals do silly things - with the help of my animal puppet friends. The children will be encouraged to write their own animal riddles (either in groups or as a class).

For: 3 to 7 year olds (Pre-School, EYFS & KS1).

Curriculum Links: Animals, English/Literacy, Poetry, Creative Writing, Performing.



The Abandoned House

A spooky workshop about ghosts, lonely wolves, abandoned houses and things that go bump in the night, featuring a selection of my spookier poems and stories. The children will be encouraged to write their own spooky poem or story and perform the same or for younger children write/perform a class poem.

For: 6 to 11 year olds (Upper KS1 & KS2).

Curriculum Links: English/Literacy, Poetry, Creative Writing, Performing.



I Can't Wait for Christmas

A fun festive workshop featuring poetry from my upcoming book 'I Can't Wait for Christmas' (the first in the 'I Can't Wait' series, due out in 2028). Future titles in the series include 'I Can't Wait for Halloween', 'I Can't Wait for Easter', 'I Can't Wait for my Birthday' and 'I Can't Wait to go on Holiday'). Children will be encouraged to write their own Christmas poem and perform the same or for younger children write/perform a class poem.

For: 4 to 11 year olds (EYFS, KS1 & KS2).

Curriculum Links: English/Literacy, Poetry, Creative Writing, Performing.



Workshops

I Want To Be An Engineer

A fun and interactive workshop that tackles the stereotypes of engineers and encourages all genders to consider/pursue engineering and STEM subjects as a whole. Covering different types of engineer, engineers portrayed in film and television, famous/inspirational engineers and a selection of engineering inventions/innovations during the children's lifetime. They will be encouraged to write their own personification poem/riddle about engineering inventions/innovations and perform the same.

For: 6 to 11 year olds (Upper KS1 & KS2). (Ideal for STEM week).

Curriculum Links: STEM, Engineering, English/Literacy, Poetry, Creative Writing, Performing.

I want
to be an
Engineer

Titanic

An interactive workshop on the tragic sinking of The Titanic featuring my own poems and stories. With a particular focus on the reasons for the sinking, the impact of social class and looking at this tragedy from various points of view. The children/adults will be encouraged to write their own titanic poem or story and perform the same.

For: 7 year olds to Adults (KS2, KS3, KS4 & Adults).

Curriculum Links: History, English/Literacy, Poetry, Creative Writing, Performing.



Conflict

An interactive workshop featuring age-appropriate conflict poetry from my book 'Conflict' (the first in the Conflict Poetry book series). Covering a wide range of internal and external conflicts such as war, environmental issues, inequality, physical illness, mental health and abuse. The children/adults will be encouraged to write their own conflict poem and perform the same.

For: 9 year olds to Adults (Upper KS2, KS3, KS4 & Adults). (Ideal for KS3/ KS4 to help with their conflict poetry module in GCSE English).

Curriculum Links: PSHE, RSHE, English/Literacy, Poetry, Creative Writing, Performing.



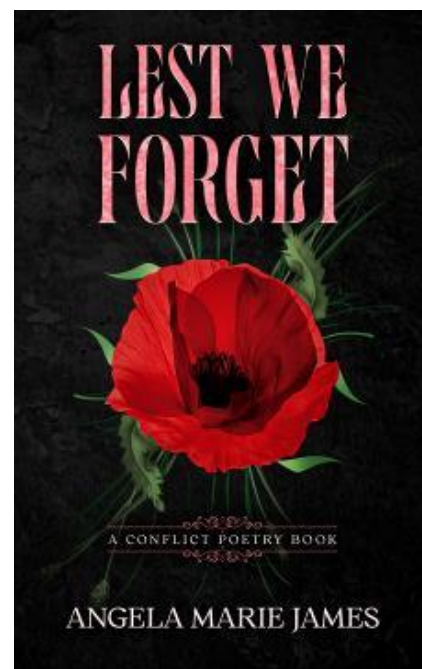
Workshops

Lest We Forget

An interactive workshop featuring age-appropriate war poetry from my book 'Lest We Forget' (the second in the Conflict Poetry book series, due out in 2027). Covering WW1, WW2, more recent conflicts and the role both men and women have played. The children/adults will be encouraged to write their own war poem and perform the same.

For: 7 year olds to Adults (KS2, KS3, KS4 & Adults). (Ideal for Remembrance Day, WW2 module in KS2, KS3/KS4 to help with their war module in GCSE History, etc).

Curriculum Links: War, History, English/Literacy, Poetry, Creative Writing, Performing.

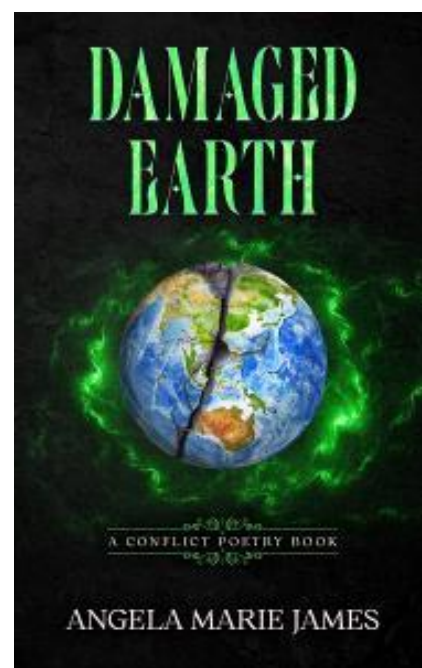


Damaged Earth

An interactive workshop featuring age-appropriate environmental poetry from my book 'Damaged Earth' (the third in the Conflict Poetry book series, due out in 2029). Covering pollution, climate change, industrialisation and the role humans have played. The children/adults will be encouraged to write their own environmental poem and perform the same.

For: 9 year olds to Adults (Upper KS2, KS3, KS4 & Adults).

Curriculum Links: STEM, Science, PSHE, English/Literacy, Poetry, Creative Writing, Performing.



Still Unequal

An interactive workshop featuring age-appropriate inequality poetry from my book 'Still Unequal' (the fourth in the Conflict Poetry book series, due out in 2031). Covering different types of inequality such as racial, gender, disability and financial. The children/adults will be encouraged to write their own inequality poem and perform the same.

For: 9 year olds to Adults (Upper KS2, KS3, KS4 & Adults).

Curriculum Links: PSHE, History, English/Literacy, Poetry, Creative Writing, Performing.



Testimonials

"Angela has a calm and positive manner that motivates and inspires the listeners. She writes a diverse variety of poems that are matched to the interests and experiences of her audience. She is more than willing to work with staff in school, shaping sessions and even offering bespoke poems so that they compliment the subjects being taught. Her poetry provokes deep thinking in children and she encourages her audience to explore the possibilities of language, plot and narrative. The children in school now demonstrate an enthusiasm for poetry writing and feel motivated to write poems of their own."

Nichola Gibson, Headteacher
Ellison Primary Academy, Newcastle-under-Lyme

"The range was good, giving children a good understanding of what an engineer is, so addressing misconceptions."

"Interesting content relevant to our curriculum. Raised children's aspirations about future careers."

Year 3 & 4 Teachers
Burnwood Primary School, Stoke-on-Trent

"The poems were lovely, pitched correctly and involved movement which was good. The children really enjoyed them and joined in."

"Your poems were magical. It was lovely to meet a 'real' poet!"

Year 1 & 2 Teachers
Harpfield Academy, Stoke-on-Trent

"The content and knowledge shared was excellent and the sessions were very informative. The pupils learnt a lot through discussions/poetry, and responded well offering good answers/points. They remembered a lot from the workshop when questioned."

Year 5 Teacher
Greenways Primary School, Stockton Brook

"Several children wrote their own poems at home (it wasn't even their homework!). I had a lovely letter from one of the parents, saying how her daughter had been very excited to meet a 'real' poet and how much she had enjoyed it."

Year 1/2 Teacher
Anson Primary School, Stafford

"Angela came during half term to share her poems with the children. They enjoyed listening to her work and were fond of the Superhero poem and the 'I Love to Stamp' poem as they could join in and stamp their feet! The session was very enjoyable for both adults and children."

Michelle Hall, Deputy Manager
Orchard Day Nursery, Newcastle-under-Lyme

"The interaction using the puppets and play acting as animals aided the children to be creative and use their imagination."

"The kids loved guessing the animals and the puppets."

"Both children really enjoyed it and took part."

Parents of 3 -7 year olds
Brampton Museum, Newcastle-under-Lyme

Feedback from Children

"I liked when all the animals changed voices."

"You are the funniest. I liked the funny bits."

"My favourite was the dragons dancing and lions."

"I liked the dancing carrots and peas."

"My favourite was the Superhero poem."

"I liked when we had to guess what things were."

Year 1 Pupils

Ellison Primary Academy, Newcastle-under-Lyme

"Thank you for making World Book Day 2019 one that the whole school will remember."

"I really enjoyed the spooky poem. I really wish I could read or listen to it again. It really inspired me when I was doing my writing."

"My favourite part was learning so many things about the Titanic. The facts you gave us inspired us to write poems about the Titanic."

"I hope you come again and share your amazing work with us."

Year 5 & 6 Pupils

Silverdale Primary Academy, Newcastle-under-Lyme

"I liked it when we made the pyjama apocalypse poem."

"It was a fun day and we would love to do it again."

"I liked it when you performed the poems to us."

"I liked when we made our own poem and got to shout BOO really loud."

"Thank you for coming to our school, we loved it."

Year 1 - 6 Pupils

Anson Primary School, Stafford

"Thank you for teaching me a lot about World War 2. I really enjoyed it."

"She was very nice and helped us learn."

"I learnt a lot about Reginald Mitchell and the Spitfire because I didn't know much before."

"You did a great job making it fun and educational."

"Thank you for teaching us about engineers."

"It was really fun, you are the best Mrs James."

"The lesson was really fun and great. I would give it 10 out of 10."

Year 3 - 6 Pupils

Greenways Primary School, Stockton Brook

"I would love for the poet to come again and show us more about Reginald Mitchell."

"Her poems were great. I learnt a lot."

Year 3 Pupils

Churchfields Primary School, Chesterton

"I liked the 'I Don't Want To Go to School' poems best."

"I enjoyed writing the poems it was so fun."

"I liked hearing the poems."

"Can you let us know when your next book is out?"

14 - 16 year old children

Friends for Leisure's Crewe Youth Group

"I enjoyed the spooky stories and guessing game."

"I liked the stories because they were really spooky and made me jump."

4 - 11 year old children

Artisan Tap, Newcastle-under-Lyme

About Me, Positions In Education & Outreach/Community Work

About Me

I love writing books and performing my work/delivering workshops both in educational settings and in the community. This follows on from my lifetime passion for reading, I could always be found with my head in a book as a child. I enjoy the classics, thrillers, science-fiction, crime, Gothic literature, historical fiction, and autobiographies.

I live in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire with my husband author, illustrator & storyteller Glenn Martin James and our two daughters.

Positions in Education

Chair of Governors at Ellison Primary Academy

Link Governor for Pupil Premium/Sports Premium, Safeguarding and Middle Leadership.

Member of Committees: Education, Pay, Resources and Headteacher's Performance Management.

Awarded Level 1 Safeguarding and hold an Enhanced DBS Certificate.

Outreach/Community Work

Educational Outreach Poet for Operation Spitfire

I visited primary schools delivering bespoke poetry sessions to raise awareness about the Spitfire, RJ Mitchell, engineers, etc and its impact on aviation and World War II, to encourage an interest in engineering and to build enthusiasm for STEM subjects as a whole.

Writer, Historian and Actor for various Heritage Projects

I co-wrote and performed the Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Centre Heritage Trail alongside fellow author Glenn Martin James, as well as co-wrote the 'Engaging with History' section of the Education Pack. I also performed in Newcastle-under-Lyme's Mock Mayor recreation.

Performing in the Community

I often perform/deliver workshops at museums, libraries and at community events. Such as Newcastle-under-Lyme's: Christmas Lights Switch-on event (as a Victorian Storyteller for over four years), Victorian Festival and Homecoming Festival. As well as an International Women's Day Event, The YMCA's Big Picnic and Festival Stoke, etc. Please contact me if you would like to know more.



Why should we book an author visit?

Author visits (both in-person and virtual) provide an inspiration for children and adults to be more enthusiastic readers and writers. They have the opportunity to connect with the author on a personal level and hear first-hand about the writing process. As well as the opportunity to ask how and why certain poems/stories were written, where did the idea come from and why that particular subject was chosen. Most children, teachers and adults alike love to meet a 'real life author'.

Such visits can engage and inspire even the most reluctant readers, as well as both Pupil Premium children and SEND children. Due to a change in the learning environment provided by an author, the visual and performance elements and also the opportunity to create a poem or story, where the only real limitation is their imagination.

How do we invite you?

The best way is e-mail me at author@amjames.co.uk.

How many children/adults do you like to perform to/work with at once?

I have worked with as few as 5 and as many as 300; the number would depend on the space available. I can work with large groups, whole classes, year groups or even the whole school/setting if time and space allows. I can be flexible to your facilities and requirements.

How many workshops will you do during a visit?

Usually one for an hour session, 2 or 3 for a half-a-day visit, 4 or 5 for a 1 day visit and 8 -10 for a 2 day visit. For larger schools/organisations I can visit for additional days. A book signing can also be included. *(For virtual visits signed bookplates can be sent for anyone ordering books).*

School visits can also include assemblies (whole school or key stages) and celebration assemblies.

Do you have a DBS Certificate?

Yes, I have an Enhanced DBS Certificate. This is available on request. I am also registered with the DBS Update Service.

Do you have insurance?

Yes, I have Public and Product Liability Insurance provided through the NAWA (National Association of Writers in Education) Professional Membership scheme. Certificate available on request.