

GUPPY SCHOOL: Author Events with JULIAN SEDGWICK

- Established, Carnegie shortlisted children's and YA author, with experience of over 200 school and festival visits.
- Apart from writing, Julian has worked for over twenty years as a therapist, and often sees the benefits of talking about challenging life events in both presentations and workshops. He has been Patron of Reading for Leighton Park School for the last three years, and enjoys developing on-going links with school communities, both in the UK and abroad.
- Some feedback from previous events: *"'Exciting' and 'inspirational' were the words most often used in feedback from pupils following Julian's visit. The interactive aspects of the presentation really added a Wow factor, and pupils absolutely loved the finale."* Deborah Goodwin, Norwich School
"The whole school was buzzing after his visit. If you are looking for an author to invite into school, who can really deliver, then this is the one for you." Anne Shaw, LRC Manager, Ely College
- *"Best author I've ever heard from! Very enthusiastic, funny and got the audience involved! He didn't talk ALL the time which other authors do!"* Anonymous Pupil.



ABOUT JULIAN'S EVENTS

Julian has a range of talks with audio-visual Powerpoint for Years 6 – 9, and accompanying workshops for those age groups. He has also led writing and screenplay talks and workshops for sixth form groups and adult lifelong learners. Some of the in-person talks have an element of performance to them, including rudimentary circus skills and mild hypnosis ☺ Most of the talks and workshops adapt successfully online, but some are better in person as described below.

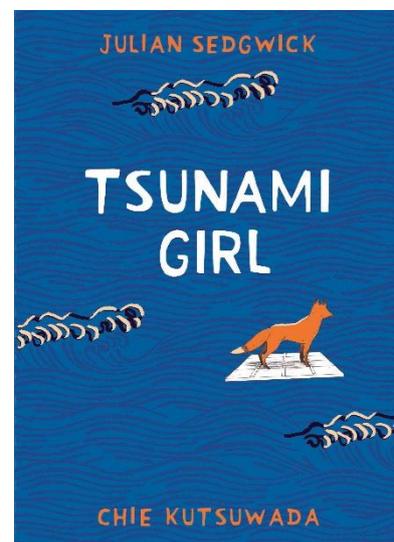
- Images and more info at <https://www.juliansedgwick.co.uk/schools/school-visits/>

ONLINE EVENTS

50 min illustrated talk about the research and writing of *Tsunami Girl*. (Plus Q&A)

- Background to the March 2011 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and Radiation disaster.
- A reading from *Tsunami Girl*
- An A-Z of Japanese yōkai monsters and ghost stories, and how they work into the novel.
- Resilience, recovery from disaster and the role of creativity in overcoming adversity.
- Manga and visual storytelling.

50 min talk on *Ghosts of Shanghai*, and the world of 1920s China. (Plus Q&A)





- Classic Chinese (and personal) ghost stories. Imagination's response to crisis and anxiety.
- Reading the opening of *Ghosts*
- Martial arts sword juggling finale. (Swords are blunt stage props – looks terrifying and flashy, but totally safe!)
- Twentieth century Chinese and British history. Colonialism and conflict.
- Discrimination and exploring other cultures.

One hour talk – visual storytelling: the world of graphic novels, manga and illustrated books.

- Working with his three books that involve images in the storytelling (graphic novel *Dark Satanic Mills*, illustrated novel *Orpheus Black* and part-manga *Tsunami Girl*) Julian looks at how illustration can carry and support a story.
- Brief history of graphic novels, comics and illustrated books.
- Images in East Asian storytelling.
- Working creatively in a team – challenges and joys!

WORKSHOPS

Haiku Workshop

- A fun, informative and brief look at haiku down the ages. Not just about 17 syllables!
- Paying attention to the moment. Using language specifically to evoke an instant.
- Tuning into season, weather, details, the calming and restoring power of nature.
- Humour, mystery, sadness, shock! Wonder.
- Form raw materials collected in notebooks over previous week, Julian and students will craft a few haiku live online using chat function in Zoom or similar.

This workshop follows up well with continued editing and writing of responses to work in the lesson. It can also be adapted to create a haiku party – or 'renga party' – where one poem triggers another in a mini-poem chain reaction.

REAL-LIFE EVENTS

PRESENTATIONS

One hour illustrated talk about the research and writing of *Tsunami Girl*. Plus Q&A.

- Background to the March 2011 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and Radiation disaster.
- Introducing Japanese folklore, yōkai and ghost stories, and how they work into the novel.
- Resilience, recovery from disaster and the role of creativity in overcoming adversity.
- Manga and visual storytelling.

One hour talk on *Ghosts of Shanghai*, and the world of 1920s China. Plus Q&A.

- Classic Chinese (and personal) ghost stories. Imagination's response to crisis and anxiety.
- Twentieth century Chinese and British history. Colonialism and conflict.
- A reading of the opening of *Ghosts of Shanghai*



- Martial arts sword juggling finale. (Swords are blunt stage props – looks terrifying and flashy, but totally safe, and approved by dozens of schools!)

One hour talk – visual storytelling: the world of graphic novels, manga and illustrated books.

- Working with my three books that involve images in the storytelling (graphic novel *Dark Satanic Mills*, illustrated novel *Orpheus Black* and part-manga *Tsunami Girl*) a look at how illustration can carry and support a story.
- Brief history of graphic novels and illustrated books.
- Images in East Asian storytelling.
- Creative working with other people!

WORKSHOPS

Haiku Workshop

- As above in online events. Works well in person or via Zoom. Flexible from 45 mins to all day workshop in person – and can include a walk on school grounds or local park to collect the sensory experiences that will become haiku by the end of the day. Julian has run this from year 6 up to adult.

Ghost Theatre Workshop

- Divided into groups of two or three, students get a brief introduction to a particular form of East Asian ‘ghost theatre’ – Japanese Noh.
- Following a formula, students create the setting and principal characters for a classic Japanese or Chinese ghost story. A ghost appears who has a problem – can the characters resolve and lay the ghost to rest? Great fun as these are then presented to class. Ages: school years 7-9. 50-60 mins.

Create a Character Workshop

- A general group discussion about the complexities of making fully rounded characters. From inner life, to mannerisms, to speech patterns, to relationships. Often a very telling debate!
- Examples from classic children’s lit, leading to:
- Working in pairs students create a character together using a template, but also following their own path. Spidergrams, lists, diagrams...
- After 50-60 mins we meet a few of those characters. At its best this workshop has been known to produce not just laughter, but also chills...

FAQ

What preparation would I need to do for the event?

Ideally, please take a section of a lesson in the run up to event to get students familiar with the book and theme of the talk. This doesn’t need to be much, but, from experience, can really drive the visit – whether real or virtual – to deliver more for everyone. Discussing cover, back blurb or even reading a few pages in class can make a huge difference. For the **haiku workshop**, ideally students need to collect some sensory observations in the week leading up to visit, in the way of notes, phrases or word lists.



What materials, if any, do the students need for the session?

For some workshops blank paper and pens are required.

Do I need to organise for your books to be on sale?

Yes. Please arrange via local independent bookseller – ideally pre-sales.

Are you happy to sign books or book plates (for virtual sessions)?

Julian is very happy to sign books in person, to sign book plates on camera at the end of virtual events, and answer follow up questions via email or website contact form.

BOOKING

To discuss fees and booking a session please contact: julian@juliansedgwick.co.uk