

MELAINA FARANDA AT YOUR SCHOOL...

Author of twenty-nine YA and Children's books, Melaina Faranda has worked and presented in over a hundred schools, offering a variety of creative writing workshops for both Primary and Secondary students. A funny, dynamic, entertaining and inspiring presenter, Melaina is NOT a clueless introvert who should never have been unchained from the computer to put the kids to sleep with a boring monologue about why she writes books...

She is, however, a qualified English teacher who crafts workshops to be entertaining *and* educational and meet student and curriculum needs. Having worked with twenty editors from seven major publishers, Melaina is able to impart a wealth of knowledge, experience, writing skills and techniques to students in a manner in which they often don't even realise they're learning because it's so enjoyable. She also just really likes kids of all ages and having fun with them and is repeatedly sought by schools and festivals for return visits.

Below are some of her most popularly requested workshops, but these can be adapted or new workshops and presentations can be tailored in consultation with the Head of English, Teacher-Librarian or Coordinating teacher to meet your school's specific needs. Melaina is comfortable with all group sizes, can work in with your timetable, will conquer the kid texting up the back, and is fine with delivering at combined school events. All workshops are practical and experiential and teachers are welcome to either nip off to do some marking or sit in.

WORKSHOPS

HOW TO WRITE A STORY WITHOUT HAVING TO THINK

Delivers unique (and fool-proof!) creative techniques for generating striking story ideas. Can be modified and adapted to different age levels from Upper Primary to Senior Secondary.

GENERATING GENIUS STORIES FOR THE HSC

Quick, easy and surprisingly powerful techniques for generating unique and striking story concepts for the HSC creative writing component that can fit with stimulus pieces. Students who experience this workshop claim that it's a revelation and relief and schools often book this workshop to support their senior students.

MAKING GOOD WRITING GREAT AND BAD WRITING BETTER!

Self-editing tools and techniques for students to learn how to draft their writing to produce higher quality stories and get better marks! Most suited for Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12. This highly practical workshop will make a tangible difference to your senior students' writing skills.

DUELLING WITH DRAGONS

Fantasy writing tools and techniques – a fun, creative exploration of the conventions, tropes and story concepts of the fantasy genre. Suitable for mid to upper Primary to Year 10 Secondary.

BYE BYE MR POTATO HEAD – CREATING COMPELLING CHARACTERS

Tools, techniques and creative exercises for learning how to create three-dimensional fascinating characters. Suitable for Upper Primary to Senior Secondary.

AUTHOR TALK – A KISS, A FIGHT AND A CRAZY BEAR – a highly entertaining animated talk weaving together a number of real-life adventure stories and inviting students to identify and explore the storytelling techniques that make the stories work.

AUTHOR TALK – MAGIC HAPPENS – a talk about the supernatural, real-life spooky and magical that has informed some of Melaina's novels. Has students totally gripped and clamouring with questions.

A BIT MORE ABOUT MELAINA FARANDA...

Melaina Faranda has had twenty-nine YA and children's novels published nationally and internationally by publishers including: Random House, Allen&Unwin, Omnibus, Heinemann, Rigby, Pearson Australia and Pearson New Zealand.

She has taught creative writing classes in numerous school and non-school environments, many of which have been sell-out events – including the NSW Writers' Centre, Queensland Writers' Centre, Northern Territory Writers' Centre, Northern Rivers Writers' Centre, the Brisbane Writers' Festival, All Saints Literature Festival, Somerset Celebration of Literature, Northern Territory Wordstorm festival, Newington College Festival, Byron Bay Writers' Festival, Voices on the Range Festival, Voices on the Coast Festival, Bourke Writers' Festival, as well as been the residential tutor at Cathedral School Writers' Camp and Brisbane Girl's Grammar writing camp. She has delivered author talks and writing workshops in schools across Australia. A trained secondary school English teacher, with nineteen years of teaching experience, Melaina loves speaking, teaching and facilitating, and is renowned for making her presentations truly dynamic, creative and alive.

FEEDBACK

'If you're looking for a writer to visit your school or run a writers' camp, Melaina Faranda is an absolute stand-out. Melaina is not only a gifted writer and communicator, but she is also enormous fun! Our students (and staff) adored her, with her exciting writing ideas, wonderful stories and zest for life. I thoroughly enjoyed "the Melaina experience". She has my very, very highest recommendation.' Judy Salk, Head of English, The Cathedral School ,
Townsville Judy.Salk@cathedral.qld.edu.au

'Brilliant. You are a fantastic teacher, inspiring. Wonderful ability to engage

and interact – you had them right in. In all my time of doing this your session was one of the best.’ -Terry Leach | Senior Project Officer, Library and Digital Resource Services | eLearning | Information & Technologies Branch | Department of Education and Training

‘I am writing to thank you for the wonderful job you did with our girls towards the end of last term... Thank you for your wonderfully professional conduct, easy nature and thorough preparation. We always enjoy having you at LHC and look forward to booking you next year for the usual writer's workshops (if we are lucky enough to secure you for that again).

Please accept our very sincere thanks, from Treasa Kennedy and the girls you help enrich at LHC.’

‘My students really loved this. I feel that you have ‘touched’ my kids to think and realise they can write. I have never seen my students actually believe they can write! One said, ‘I am going now to think – use the darkness to dream...’

Robyn Skillet Tweed River High School

‘Certificate Extraordinaire awarded to Melaina Faranda for being our ‘bestest’ ever presenter and writer.’ The Cathedral School Writers’ Camp

‘Our nine to eleven year-old girls were enthralled by the sensory images you challenged them to experience. They discovered parts of themselves which surprised them, that they didn’t realise even existed within them. My daughter, who hung off your every word, can hardly wait to put pen to paper and follow in your footsteps to inspire readers! Thank you for your gifts of writing and inspiring young readers.’

Tanya Moffat teacher St Francis school, Geraldton, WA

‘Melaina’s ability to push me into an imaginative state was amazing. I found a place inside me that I didn’t know I had and it felt extremely relieving. She’s very confident and has much to teach. Thank you, Melaina you have helped me so much – I’ve found my love for writing.’ – Rachel Irvine, Sheldon College

‘I learnt a whole new perspective on writing and how to use your imagination efficiently. She had a really effective approach on how to write better and I know that these new strategies will definitely be accounted for in the future.’
Gemma Mann

‘Thank you for this class, it definitely helped. I had never thought that I would be able to write as easily as I did without really trying. It was an amazing experience and I found it really enjoyable.’ Thomas Baker

I would just love to thank you for today! I wasn’t really looking forward to the festival but your talk really made my day! I could relate to what you were saying A LOT! Good luck for the future, you’re a great writer and I’m looking forward to reading your books. Jade Herron

'This workshop is definitely something that I would love to do again. I didn't really enjoy writing but now that I found out that writing has such depth in it, I really love it. You have inspired me to do a lot more writing and I am thinking about becoming a writer when I am older. Thank you so much!!! Ally Gee

'After listening to the workshop about the QCS writing task and participating in the activities I found them really helpful. I really liked the way Melaina kept us all interested through jokes and stories. Previously when I looked at the stimulus I would get an idea and just go with it, I wouldn't brainstorm or plan my story. I didn't form an attitude. This workshop has helped me to plan, structure and form an attitude towards my preferred genre of writing. Thanks! Nicole (Yr 12 student) Lourdes Hill College

'Melaina, we three came to your talk today about your inspirational life as a storyteller. We thoroughly enjoyed how you used the sense of drawing us in. You interacted with us and spoke to us on a young adult level. You used great techniques, like the realism in the lemon wedges and your enthusiastic manner makes us want to read your books even more.' Thank you very much, Love Scott Cook, Kieran Parker and Michaela Brockett.

'The workshops with Melaina were a very rewarding and worthwhile experience. I am glad that I took up this opportunity as it has helped me understand the intricacy of writing and helped me view the process from a professional level. During the workshops, Melaina was able to relate with the audience and come down to their age level. Melaina engaged and held the audience's attention throughout the workshops from the very first moment. She did so with both adventures in life as an author and a person along with many interactive activities. She helped open and widen our minds to concepts we would never have ventured if left alone. Melaina has a very enthusiastic and bubbly personality which enables her audience to connect well with her. Her workshops have immensely benefited me and I will take away many writing skills from this experience.' Manasa, Brisbane Girls's Grammar Student

'Melaina Faranda is a fantastic storyteller. She is funny and she has some amazing life experience. I will never forget the brilliant superhero bear and the manicured hedges. I had so much fun this weekend hearing her words paint vivid pictures. I've learnt so much, Thanks Melaina.' Sarah (Yr 8)

'Melaina was a really good teacher. She really connected with us. She has so much fun with her stories and the way she explained things. Her energy filled the room and made everything fun and enjoyable. She really personalised everything and didn't make it feel like any of us weren't good enough. The course was really good. She covered a lot of what I wanted to learn about and I gained a lot of insight into what a writer's life is like. I can't really say it enough, Melaina is a great teacher and so much fun. I loved it all!!!!!!' Marissa