

Same Difference

Debbie Thomas



Age Suitability	12-17 years
Min and Max Participants	Max 30
Duration of workshop	1 hr 30 mins
Workshops requirements	Overhead projector and computer for Powerpoint (I will bring on memory stick), paper/notebooks for writing, pens, tables for the group.
Skill requirements	Fluent reading & writing
Availability	Tuesdays and Wednesdays in June
Cost to school/group	€80 for 1 workshop/ €145 for 2

*Where facilitators offer multiple workshops, groups can arrange to co-host a facilitator with another group or school nearby to split the overall cost.

Workshop Description

This 1.5-hour workshop uses stories and creative exercises to challenge prejudice. It targets older primary and secondary pupils.

Stories are irrefutable. While values, opinions – and nowadays facts – may differ wildly, experiences can't be denied. Stories build empathy, soften views and reach beyond the ranting to find our common humanity. 'Same Difference' celebrates diversity while asserting that our common ground far outweighs our differences. Through fun exercises, participants recognise and challenge their own prejudices and explore how to connect with those who may look, act and believe differently.

Biography

Since 2011 I have worked with children in mainstream and non-formal groups in libraries, primary and secondary schools, festivals (Listowel, Mountains to Sea, Mayo RoolaBoola etc.), hospitals, museums, direct provision and youth groups across Ireland, encouraging reading and writing by exploring themes from my books and facilitating creative writing sessions. I have run many residencies to this end, working on story projects with schools nationwide. I am Writer in Residence for the City of Dublin Education and Training Board, running creative writing clubs in 11 secondary schools around Dublin. I am the Writer in Residence at Crumlin Hospital School and run creative writing workshops with children in direct provision. I have produced a book with primary school children through Poetry Ireland's Teacher Artist Partnership. I am a Writer in Schools for Poetry Ireland and a writer-facilitator on the Irish Aid-funded Teach for Tomorrow scheme, working with teachers to deliver development education in classes.