

CHRIS OWEN

PERFORMANCE POET AND CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

Dear Principal/Literacy Co-ordinator,

Do your students have a positive view of poetry?

Do your students lack confidence when reading aloud to an audience?

Are teachers aware of the motivating effect that poetry can have on young readers and writers?

Is your school meeting the *Examining Literature* objectives of the Western Australian English Curriculum?

Chris Owen is an internationally published children's author and poet from Perth who has presented his work at numerous schools, libraries, festivals and conferences. He is also an experienced educator who understands the challenge of motivating students and fulfilling the demands of a crowded curriculum. Chris is excited to be able to share his expertise about the powerful role that poetry can play in classrooms, as he seeks to inspire a deeper interest in words and language with his entertaining and informative poetry workshops and live performances.

Café ROAR Poetry Show (Year 3 – Year 8)

In his **Café ROAR Poetry Show**, Chris serves up a mouth-watering menu of delectable dishes in a variety of poetic forms, including limericks, odes, sonnets, raps, concrete poems, narrative poems, clerihews and free verse. Humorous and highly interactive, students (and teachers) get the chance to choose the pieces they want to hear while learning about different types of poetry and the ROAR ingredients that are needed to cook up great sounding poems. The Café ROAR Poetry Show is ideal as the energising introduction or culmination to a unit of poetry lessons, or as a unique **Children's Bookweek** event.

Performance Poetry Workshop (Year 3 – Year 8)

Chris introduces students to a range of poetry performance techniques and shares his tips on dealing with nerves and improving delivery. Students learn how to use voice, facial expression and body movements to enhance a poem's meaning. Using a selection of Chris's own pieces and those of other poets, students practise each technique before putting them into action in a group poetry reading. With an emphasis on having fun, these workshops are great for building reading confidence and a positive view of poetry, as well as being the perfect precursor to a class assembly production.

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Poetry Writing Student Workshop (Year 3 – Year 8)

A **Poetry Writing Workshop** is a great way to inspire young writers and kick-off a poetry project, perhaps with a view to entering a poetry competition. Sessions offer students (and teachers) an insight into the poetry writing process including idea development and the use of poetic devices (the **ROAR** ingredients). Students take part in warm-up activities to get the creative juices flowing, before Chris guides them through each step to poem completion. Chris also provides teachers with a set of resources to enable the exploration and creation of poetry to continue after his visit.

A **Poetry Writing Workshop** can be easily combined with a **Performance Poetry Workshop** to enhance the experience. In fact, all workshops are flexibly structured and can usually be tailored to accommodate the particular needs and circumstances of a school or class.

Poetry Power - Staff Professional Learning Workshop

With busy school calendars and a demanding English curriculum, finding the time to fit poetry into learning programs and meet the *Examining Literature* objectives isn't easy. Teachers themselves may not be familiar with poetry or may be uncertain about how to move beyond the use of the haiku, cinquain or acrostic. And yet, armed with a broader awareness of the genre and its benefits, teachers can inspire *all* students to engage in poetry activities and help them develop a lasting affinity with words and language.

Chris's **Poetry Power PL Workshops** are fun and hands-on. Staff will enjoy participating in a range of reading, writing and speaking activities and discover practical ways to effectively integrate poetry into learning programs. Chris will 'demystify' poetry and expand views of 'what counts as poetry' which is a crucial factor in unleashing poetic expression. All participating schools receive ready-to-use lesson plans and printable resources, and staff will leave feeling better equipped to unlock the power of poetry in their classrooms.

Meet the Author Skype Session (Year 3 – Year 8)

A Skype session is an efficient and affordable way for classes to enjoy the benefits of an author visit, particularly for schools in country or remote areas, interstate, or even overseas. Sessions are fun and informal and typically involve about 15 minutes of poetry readings, 15 minutes of shared poetry writing and 15 minutes of Q and A at the end.

Kind regards,

Chris Owen

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Bookings now open for Term 2, 3 and 4, 2020.

Session description	Duration	Prices*
Café Roar Poetry Show (max 120 students per performance)	1 hour	(1 performance) \$350
		(2 performances) \$550
		(3 performances) \$700
Performance Poetry or Poetry Writing Student Workshop (max 32 students per group)	1 hour (per class group)	(1 class group) \$ 250
		(2 class groups) \$450
		(3 class groups) \$600
		(4 class groups) \$700
Combined Performance Poetry and Poetry Writing Student Workshop (max 32 students per group/max two combined workshops per day)	2 ¼ hours	(1 combined workshop) \$450
		(2 combined workshops) \$700
Poetry Power Staff PL	1 ½ hours	\$250
Meet the Author Skype Session	45 minutes	\$150

*All prices are inclusive of GST and travel costs in Perth Metro Area. Additional costs will apply for non-Metro, interstate and overseas visits.

**Chris has a valid WA Working with Children Card, which is available to view on request.

To enquire about booking a live performance, student workshop, staff PL session or Skype visit, simply contact Chris at the email address below.

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chrisowenchildrensauthor.wordpress.com