

THE MIRROR CHRONICLES

THE BELL BETWEEN WORLDS

IAN JOHNSTONE

THE SHOP OF THINGS

An Inspirational Creative Writing Workshop for your School

Ian Johnstone, author of the acclaimed fantasy debut, *The Bell Between Worlds*, offers an exciting creative writing workshop for Y6 and Y7.

To the hero of the novel, Sylas Tate, there is only one place more important than his wonderful attic room in Gablety Row, and that is his imagination. But the world changes beyond his wildest imaginings when The Shop of Things opens in the Row. The shopkeeper, Mr Zhi, shows him three of his wonderful "Things": strange, magical objects that seem to prove that there is something special about young Sylas Tate.



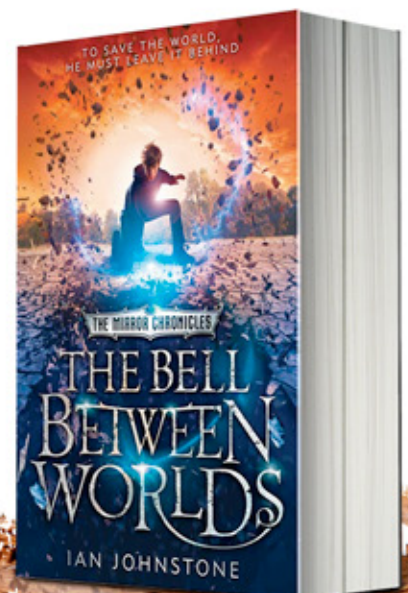
Now your students can visit The Shop of Things with its creator, Ian Johnstone, and discover their own special talent for bringing magical Things to life.

Check inside for an outline of the workshop. To book or for further information, please email Ian at:

workshops@ianjohnstone.com

Follow Ian on  [@johnianstone](https://twitter.com/johnianstone)

The Bell Between Worlds is the first book in the major new fantasy trilogy The Mirror Chronicles.





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Workshop for Y6 and Y7

“I collect and sell Things. Things, by definition, are objects we find hard to explain.” Mr Zhi

SPECIFIC CURRICULAR RELEVANCE (English)


- Writing for a wide range of purposes and audiences, including stories, scripts, poetry and other imaginative writing
- Drawing on knowledge of literary and rhetorical devices from their reading and listening to enhance the impact of their writing

DURATION:

1.5 hours – 2 hours, can be flexible according to school's needs. Includes a writing exercise and the opportunity for extension activities if the school would like it.

PROPS:

A mysterious box filled with strange items, provided by Ian.



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OUTLINE OF WORKSHOP:

1. Introduction: Ian introduces himself and the session, outlining what he and the group are going to do. The session will involve some fun descriptive writing inspired by some strange objects Ian has collected over the years.
2. Ian gives a reading from *The Bell Between Worlds*: the first description of *The Shop of Things*.
3. Ian introduces a mysterious 'Box of Things' and tells the group that it contains strange objects he has collected from all around the world. He has no idea what they are meant to be used for.
4. Descriptive language: This part of the workshop focusses on what makes good descriptive language and involves the pupils in making suggestions and discussing them. Using the senses, simile and metaphor will be included. Ian talks about some great descriptive writing that he has found inspirational. He explains that writing can be hard and how he learned to improve, overcome obstacles etc.
5. The children get into small groups and select an item per group. They reach into the box of Things without seeing what they will get.
6. Ian tells the children that they should now answer some questions about the Thing they have chosen, which he writes on the board: e.g. what it is called; who made it and when; what special power it might have; who it belonged to etc. Children can make up funny explanations, magical ones, mundane ones, whatever they like, but they must be as descriptive as possible.
7. The children now write a short piece about their Thing, based on these questions and what they have learned about description (they can produce something as a small group or individually after talking about it – Ian will discuss this with the teacher). Ian walks around and helps them.
8. All groups introduce their item and read out their piece or a selected piece.
9. If there is time, Ian will read a description of the most magical Thing in *The Bell Between Worlds*: the bell itself.

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

If the school wants a longer workshop or wants extension activities to do after Ian's visit:

INSTALLATION

Make a Shop of Things in a classroom! Fill a room with boxes, dust, fake cobwebs etc. Hang a sign outside. Children have to enter and find strange objects, then document them – describing and drawing – for a shop catalogue. They can look at museum catalogues beforehand, watch Indiana Jones/The Librarians for a fun take on mystical artefacts. Odd music may be playing, the lights should be dimmed, and a strange “Assistant” voice recording could play in a cupboard. Teacher can act (and even be in costume!) as a mysterious Mr Zhi.

LONGER ACTIVITIES

- Make a class book of the descriptive pieces and style as a museum/auction catalogue using ICT, or make the catalogue online on a blog or free website.
- Review magical Things in *The Bell Between Worlds* and other fantasy books, eg *The One Ring*, *The book in The Neverending Story*, Susan's arrows in *Narnia*, magical amulets, swords etc – could be in computer games etc too. Make a top ten with a page profile for each detailing their powers, the childrens' view on how effective they are, a quote from the text where they are described etc. The final object could be a class book, online project or a film of children talking about which magical object they nominate as the best.
- Children write debate speeches after the above review proposing what they believe to be the best magical Thing in fiction.
- Children write stories involving two characters, each with their own magical object. They must decide the relationship of the characters and whether the magical Things work with each other, clash with each other or interact in some interesting way. They then record their stories for a school podcast.

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ON TWITTER

"An enormous and richly created world" @lovereadin4kids

Books of the Year 2013

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"Outstanding... Epic... Best fantasy from last 14 years"

Magic Fiction Since Potter Blog

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"Gripping... Excellent world building... Eagerly await next instalment" @Jenny_books_art

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"Engrossing... Dramatic... Colourfully described... Highly recommended" @thebookbag

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"Epic.. Wild excitements.. Lyrical beauty.. Genuine menace.. Devastating climax" Magic

Fiction Since Potter @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"It really is [epic fantasy]... A great adventure for kids... but also for teens & adults." @

KatsBookBuzz @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"An absolute joy to read... Fantastically exciting. An epic masterpiece" @enchantedbooks

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"Vividly imagined... Beautifully written... Jaw-dropping" @

ELAdams12 Through The Gateway

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"Well-written.. An amazing read.. Would rec. to anyone that enjoys fantasy" Homeport Blog

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"Quite capable of standing shoulder to shoulder w. [Lewis] & [Pullman]" @welovethisbook

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"A brilliant storyteller.. Beautiful & evocative.. Interesting & complex" @FlutterbyRoom

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"A thrilling adventure, guaranteed to keep readers utterly enthralled" @dubraybooks

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"Not since Harry Potter have I devoured a fantasy world as much." @raimy_rawr

Readaraptor

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"Inventive, awe-inspiring and exciting... wholly unique... I was hooked" @MissMimz

#BellBetweenWorlds @johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"Magnificently written... Truly wonderful debut... a little bit of magic & lots of adventure" @lamontbooks

@johnianstone

#MirrorChronicles

"Fantastic... Vivid, imaginative and totally engrossing" @

bartsbooks #BellBetweenWorlds @

johnianstone #MirrorChronicles

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Half of your soul is missing,
The lost part is in the mirror.
And unless Sylas Tate can save you, you will never be whole again.

"Johnstone effortlessly conjures up elaborate worlds rich in both magic and fantasy. The Mirror Chronicles has an enchanting quality that is capable of standing shoulder to shoulder with the likes of Chronicles of Narnia and His Dark Materials ... This highly-charged adventure is a delightful page-turner for both children and adults alike"

BOOKSELLER (We Love This Book)

The Bell Between Worlds is the first book in The Mirror Chronicles trilogy, a glorious, epic, door-to-another-world fantasy of astounding quality.

The hero is Sylas Tate, who leads a lonely existence with his cruel uncle until the tolling of a giant bell draws him into The Other. Here he discovers not only that he has an inborn talent for the nature-influenced magic of the Fourth Way, but also that his lost mother might just have come from this parallel world. Meanwhile evil forces are stirring, and an astounding revelation awaits Sylas: The Other is a mirror of our world, and every person here has a counterpart there. As violence looms and the stakes get higher, Sylas must seek to unite the two worlds and the two halves of his soul – otherwise the universe may fall...

Ian Johnstone read English Literature at Cambridge University before joining Macmillan, where he worked in a variety of senior marketing, sales, editorial and management roles. He left in 2005 to focus on writing. The Mirror Chronicles trilogy is the astonishing result.

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Also available in e-book formats

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