



Alec Williams

Alec Williams is a UK trainer, speaker and storyteller with a background in children's books and libraries. He trains and tells stories both in the UK and internationally; in 2015 alone he has worked in Vietnam, Thailand, Bangladesh, Greece, Egypt, and Portugal – along with many engagements in the UK. Alec gained many years' experience in children's books through a career in library services; he's an Honorary Member of the Youth Libraries Group of CILIP (the UK's Library Association), and one of the UK National Literacy Trust's 'Reading Champions' for his work in getting boys reading.

Alec lives in the North of England, on the hills between Manchester and Leeds, but his work has taken him to over thirty countries, both telling stories and training teachers, often through the British Council but sometimes at the direct invitation of schools. He also comperes events, gives guest lectures at universities, and has written articles for professional journals. He'll be speaking at IATEFL's 50th conference next year.

An enthusiastic advocate of reading for pleasure, Alec believes that language learning is hugely enhanced by stories and poetry. Alec's sessions for teachers are rich in humour, examples, extracts, and anecdotes, and as a frequent visitor to schools, he's full of down-to-earth practical advice that will help every teacher and librarian.

Contact Alec on alec@alecwilliams.co.uk

Website: <http://www.alecwilliams.co.uk/welcome.php>

British Council Armenia

Training Topics for 27th and 28th November 2015

1. Reading for Pleasure: Why it's Important, and How to make it Happen

The pleasure of reading can sometimes be forgotten in the process of teaching. This session looks generally at ways to promote reading, and profiles how to create a 'reading school', where pupils read for enjoyment, where staff model the pleasure of reading, and the whole school demonstrates its value. Delegates will learn the principles of reading for pleasure, and a range of strategies, for both classrooms and library, to make it a whole-school initiative.

2. Storytelling

This entertaining session looks at storytelling using books, and also telling stories from memory, as well as the many other ways in which stories can enliven the whole curriculum, for all ages. There'll be opportunity to hear stories and share favourite stories of your own, plus a range of hints and tips to give you more confidence in using stories. Alec will bring a selection of story sources and picture books to display, and there'll be handouts to take away.

3. Reaching Reluctant Readers – Ideas across the Age Range

Even a 'Reading School' with lots of storytelling will still include some students who don't respond; the 'can read, but won't' group! This session looks at ideas to reach these students, as well as looking at struggling readers. There'll be ideas for books and series to try in English teaching, plus a look at particular areas such as boys' reading, and at the role which parents can play.

4. Reading for Pleasure throughout the Year – using Libraries, Media and IT

This session comes full circle, and looks again at the original topic of reading for pleasure in the light of sessions 2 and 3. It includes very practical ideas that would work in classrooms, in the library, and throughout the school, along with a survey of reading initiatives from the UK and elsewhere, and a calendar of reading events through the year. Alec will also show ideas for motivating pupils to read and engaging pupils using media and IT.