

What is *Read My Mind*?

Read My Mind is the workshop on collaborative writing that's being run today, led by me (Kati Rynne) and artist-in-residence Ruth Franklin.

What we want you to do

We're inviting you to collaborate with other Unlibrary visitors to produce a series of collected writings on personal topics. The writings will have a twofold life:

Life #1 Hard copies of the writings will sit as 'books' on the (currently empty) shelves of the Unlibrary.

Life #2 Digital versions of the writings will sit online.

Ruth is on hand to show you how to create a handmade book to put the writings in.

What we'll do for you

We're going to take the books you produce today and turn them into digital products such as ebooks and audio recordings. We'll email you next month to share the results.

Do I need to be an accomplished writer to take part?

No. You're going to take your pen and jot down whatever come into your head. You're required to spend only a few minutes writing in your own book and a few minutes writing in other people's books, so the time commitment is pretty minimal.

How to take part

Come along to the collaborative writing workshop in the morning (11.30am) or in the afternoon (1.30pm). You'll be asked to come up with a personal topic to write about (suggestions below). You should pick something that others will find easy to join in with.

Suggestions

The One That Got Away (book of exes)

My Life in 50 Words

Oops, I Did it Again (book of regrets)

Advice to Londoners (how to survive life in the big smoke)

Dear (Future) Me... (letter to the person I'll be in the future)

Poetic things I heard at the Unlibrary (jot down juicy phrases you hear other people speak today)

Previous collaborative writing projects - if:book and Spread the Word

Check out my blog www.katirynne.com or Chris Meade's blog <http://www.bookfutures.blogspot.com/> for full info on these projects.

Twitter poem

Chris and I collaborated to produce and record a poem for National Poetry Day 2010. It's a crowdsourced piece on the theme of 'home for the digital age'. Inspired by some lines supplied by Daljit Nagra (Forward Prize Poetry Winner 2007), users Tweeted us some poetic lines about homepages. We bashed the lines into a poem and recorded an audio version of it at the Unlibrary.

Wonda's World

I assisted Chris on the pilot for an interactive storytelling project *Wonda's World*. Playing the role of an anonymous writer who is trying to escape a world of words, we published regular installments of an adventure story and invited Year 5 children to develop the plot. The children used blogs to swap storylines and Skyped the author to share their funny stories, poems and character ideas.

Vauxhall Chorus

In Autumn 2009 I co-wrote a '24-hour novel' entitled *Vauxhall Chorus* with Chris and nine others. Award-winning novelist Kate Pullinger was lead writer. Our challenge was to use online tools to write, edit, print, publish and launch a novel within a weekend, a feat which we managed to pull off, despite insomnia and patchy internet connectivity.

A community of users signed up to a social networking site to share photos of allotments, videos and written content for the story. Internally, a Ning was used to enable the ten writers to exchange stimulus material. The Society of Young Publishers edited the novel, print-on-demand publisher Completely Novel printed it and it was launched at the beautiful House of St. Barnabas, Soho. It's available to read online.