

Writing from your own experience

by

Lee Fox

Duration: One hour

Maximum: 25 students (up to 50 with teacher support)

## **VELS English Levels 4&5 Reading and Writing**

**(Suitable for students who have read *Other People's Country*)**

In this session Lee discusses her novel *Other People's Country* with particular reference to how and why she used her own experiences to write the book.

### **Session plan:**

#### **Introduction**

Includes a brief background to my writing career

#### **Readings and discussion**

I read selected passages from *Other People's Country* and provide a commentary on each passage

#### **Writing exercise (writing worksheet provided for photocopying)**

I use a three-step process to guide students through a writing process based on a personal experience of their choice. The experience can be something very simple. The worksheet provides an example at each step. During the session students will complete steps 1&2 with me. Step 3 will be completed in their own time.

#### **Three step outline:**

**Step 1** Write three sentences about an experience you've had

**Step 2** Change your viewpoint character and rewrite the story

**Discuss** the meaning of embellishment. How can you do this in your own writing? How can you use it to enhance the piece you wrote in Step 2? What questions could you ask? What does show don't tell mean?

**Step 3** Think of ways you can embellish your story and rewrite.