

# KIT GRINDSTAFF: OUTLINE of WORKSHOPS for TEENS and ADULTS

(Ideal for libraries as well as schools!)

1. THE DARK UNDERBELLY OF CHARACTER. . . . .p.1
2. WORLD BUILDING IN FANTASY FICTION PowerPoint presentation . . . . . p.2
3. GETTING PUBLISHED: Discussion w/ Q&A. . . . . p.2

*All workshops are 1 hour long, extendable to 1.5 hours upon request. (Fees will change accordingly.)  
Handouts given with each workshop.*

For booking, please email me at [kit@kitgrindstaff.com](mailto:kit@kitgrindstaff.com). Thank you!



## 1. THE DARK UNDERBELLY OF CHARACTER

**Goal:** To deepen character through exploration of their dark sides. What are their fatal flaws? What *don't* we know about them? What secrets might they be keeping, even from themselves?

**Structure:** A mixture of talk, discussion, and writing exercises. We'll examine both flaws and secrets, and how each add spice and dimension to character – and thereby, to the over all story.

### Overview

The workshop will alternate between:

- **Talks:** Why we need flaws – Secrets and backstories – the “black bag” – how each of these affects plot. Reference will be made to specific books, mostly middle grade and young adult.

- **Exercises:** What you know about your character - Finding flaws: what you don't know – Writing backstories –Rewriting scenes from a WIP (Last applies only if participants have been asked to bring a work in progress.)

- **Discussions:** After each exercise, we'll discuss its uses and impact. Participants may choose to read aloud from the work done in these exercises.

- **Closing, and Q&A**

## 2. WORLD BUILDING IN FANTASY FICTION (A PowerPoint presentation)

**Goal:** To examine different kinds of fantasy, and the different aspects that go into building an authentic, believable world.

**Structure:** Power Point presentation (which means lots of lovely slides!) with Q&A at the end.

### Overview:

- **Why fantasy?** Principles of World Building
- **Differences between fantasy and other kinds of fiction:** Scope of issues dealt with – Why fantasy accesses the subconscious mind – How fantasy provides guidelines
- **Challenges of fantasy**
- **Range of fantasy worlds:** Examples of different kinds of fantasy world
- **Aspects of world building**
  - The Physical World:** Geography – Climate – Environment – Sensory details – Rules of the world – human details (housing, transportation, food, schooling, etc)
  - The Personal World:** People – Names – Physical attributes – quirks – pets – clothing – speech and dialect – the Inner world (beliefs, thought patterns, etc) – Customs
- **Q&A**



## 3. GETTING PUBLISHED the TRADITIONAL WAY: Discussion, with Q&A

**Goal:** To provide writers with a map of the road to publication.

**Structure:** Talk, with resource handouts, discussion, Q&A.

### Overview:

- **Talk:** How I got published – Agents, query letter dos and don'ts – The importance of research – The changing face of traditional publishing.
- **Other resources:** Courses – Conferences – Critique groups
- **Q&A**

**Kit Grindstaff** is the author of **THE FLAME IN THE MIST**, a dark, magical fantasy for middle grade readers ages 9 – 90. (Delacorte Press/Random House)

"Richly atmospheric" ~ **Booklist**

"Fast, creepy fun" ~ **Stefan Bachmann**, author of international bestseller *The Peculiar*