

What is a workshop?

How do we do it?

Why do we do it?

Children's Book Network 'workshops' need a new name. The word *workshop* makes you think of people sitting glumly in rows while somebody talks ... and talks ... and talks.

A CBN workshop is not like that.

Let's imagine you are between the ages of nine and twelve or (for older people) thirteen and seventeen and you are coming to one ...

It lasts for anything between an afternoon to three whole days and it happens at weekends or in school holidays.

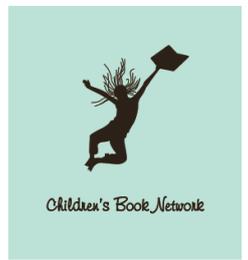
It is voluntary, but always full. Mostly there are 24 other children there. It is very busy and active and you never know quite what might happen. It is also, by the way, always free!

When you arrive, there is hot chocolate (juice in summer) and a snack. Mid-day there is a hot meal, so nobody has to worry about being hungry. There are activities to get everybody introduced and then the fun begins.

There might be a musician with a cello and he might play Bach, which you have never heard before, but you like. Then he might jam a bit on the instrument and you might be the drummer with a stone and a rock gong. You might sing as well.

Most people will dance.





There might be shadow puppets and a play that you help to write and perform with puppets that you made yourself. It might be a story about San people and you might also learn something about their lives and their stories while you are busy with your play.

Sometimes there are archaeologists telling stories of the past and a different time, or people who make maps of the mountains or who write books for teenagers. We have invited people who make stories you can read on your cellphone and people who tell stories from the old days in Africa.

There might be song writing – and you are the song writer! You might work with a famous slam poet and a brilliant violinist who listen to everything you say and let you write your own words to your own song.

Once, we had part of the University of Cape Town choir to sing, and then teach, the Thunderstorm song. Once we had drummers from Senegal who drummed up a storm of their own. Almost always we have the quiet voice of poet croc E Moses reminding us of the power of words.

Words are what CBN is really about. Reading them. Before and after, in between, under and above all the things we do, are **stories** and **books, books** and reading.

We read stories from all over the world, picture books and chapter books and read-on-your-own-when-you-are-grown-up books. We tell stories. We show you books you would never dream of and give you the key to whole worlds you have never heard of. *We Read!*

And when you go home, we hope you read too.

