“One of the best examples of good children’s literature comes from the pen of Julia Johnson...... Simple syntax, easy language, colourful illustrations and vivid imagination......account much for Johnson’s success as a leading writer of children’s books in the UAE.” Gulf News Friday magazine.

Workshops & Presentations
2011
Mobile: +97150 - 7654745
e-mail jj_bj51@emirates.net.ae
www.juliajohnson.ae
Julia Johnson is a drama teacher turned children's author, storyteller and performer who first came to Dubai in 1975.

She has appeared on stage, TV and radio in the UK and in Dubai, has toured Theatre-in-Education productions to schools and has recorded over 100 audio books.

She has written 13 books for children, including “The Pearl Diver” and “The Camel That Got Away”.

Julia's stories frequently focus on the history and culture of the Arabian Peninsula. She is keen to preserve and continue the oral tradition of storytelling, and to encourage an awareness of the rich and colourful heritage of the Gulf through her writing by weaving together fact with fiction in stories and rhymes which are easily accessible to young people.

Julia has toured schools, colleges and universities in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and the Northern Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar with talks and workshops.

Commissions have included a story for Qatar’s National Day 2009, an interactive student pack for the Kremlin exhibition for the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) and a series of five short stories for Kraft (Middle East).

She was invited to speak at the Emirates Airlines International Festival of Literature (EAIFL) in 2010.

WORKSHOP 3 -

THE PEACOCK AND THE MERMAID
Illustrated by Carla hirts.
Published 2007 by Stacey International, London

“Long ago when the world was new
Peacock’s feathers weren’t green and blue,
He didn’t wear a dazzling gown,
Back then he was, quite simply, brown.”

A narrative poem, written to be read aloud, which tells the story of how the peacock gained its beautiful tail and why it has such a harsh cry.

“The tale has universal appeal” Gulf News Friday Magazine

WORKSHOP 4 -

“Bird’s Eye View”
From desert to mountain and from coast to park, birds now flock to the Gulf. Here are some illustrated poems about those most commonly seen

WRITING WORKSHOPS FOR UPPER JUNIORS/SECONDARY

Duration - 1 hour.

Practical Workshops which are aimed at students who are interested in developing their writing skills. These workshops are aimed at small groups of students (12 is ideal, 20 maximum) and will look at some of the following:

What makes a good story? Favourite Stories. Why write? How it all began for me!

Choosing a subject - playing with ideas - where to start.
Deciding your aims. Who is your audience?
Creating the characters. The ingredients - mapping the plot. Researching facts.
Blending fact and fiction.

Language and style. Rhyme, rhythm, repetition and refrains.

From writing to publishing
The role of the illustrator.
A writer’s tips!
A beautiful pearl decides it must be the finest in the whole world, and is impatient to be taken to the Sultan. But it is in for a few surprises! Follow the pearl’s adventures from the moment it first sees daylight, through town and country, and finally into the desert, where it discovers its true destiny.

“Julia magically weaves local history and tradition into her storytelling... Emily Styles enhances the prose with her wonderful drawings...” Connector Magazine.

STORY WORKSHOP FOR OLDER READERS

For 6-10 year olds:
Duration - 40 minutes.

WORKSHOP 1 -

MORE FUN WITH RHYMES:
"THE CAMEL THAT GOT AWAY"
Illustrated by Una Rawlinson.
Published 2005 by Jerboa Books LLC, Dubai

A story about the brightly painted camels of Dubai's Camel Caravan. The Emirates Banker camel became an extremely popular character, and when he mysteriously vanished newspapers featured his picture, radio stations asked for information and posted a reward for his return, but he was never seen again. A replica now stands outside the headquarters of Emirates Bank.

This is the story of “The Camel That Got Away.”

The story is told with two glove puppets.

WORKSHOP 2 -

A FABLE SET IN THE GULF:

“A GIFT OF THE SANDS”
Illustrated by Emily Styles.
Published 2004 by Stacey International, London
ISBN: 1900988 917

When little Ali is washed out to sea on his homemade raft, who would have thought his life would be saved by a passing oil tanker? Gradually the boy learns about life aboard the Arabian Star under the command of the kindly Captain Suleiman, who takes him under his wing as the ship sails through the Suez Canal.

In this workshop find out about life on a pearling sambuk. Compare today’s diving equipment with that of the past. Watch extracts from the National Bank of Dubai film “The Pearl Coast.”

Look at traditional pearl hunting artefacts.

WORKSHOP FOR MIDDLE & UPPER JUNIORS/LOWER SECONDARY

Duration - 1 hour.
Each workshop looks at the journey of a story from first ideas, to researching the facts, choosing the characters and developing the storyline. Students listen to extracts from the stories, and are given the opportunity to ask questions.

WORKSHOP 1 -

THE PEARL DIVER
Illustrated by Patricia Al Fakhri
Published 2003 by Stacey International, London

The story of Saeed, a 6 year old boy, and his father Abdullah. Together they join the crew of a pearling dhow and Saeed learns how the divers hunt for the treasures of the deep, and discovers the secrets and dangers of the sea. "...outstanding multi-cultural fiction..." Leicestershire Libraries

WORKSHOP 2 -

ARABIAN STAR
Illustrated by Henry Climent
Published 2009 by Stacey International, London

When little Ali is washed out to sea on his homemade raft who would have thought his life would be saved by a passing oil tanker? Gradually the boy learns about life aboard the Arabian Star under the command of the kindly Captain Suleiman, who takes him under his wing as the ship sails through the Suez Canal.

In this workshop find out about:

Life on board an oil tanker
Transport and energy
Keeping our seas clean
Safety at sea
Julia’s journey through Suez Canal
Oil and its by-products
Some sea stories
**WORKSHOP 3 -**

**THE CHEETAH’S TALE**  
Illustrated by Susan Keeble  
Published 2004 by Stacey International, London  
ISBN: English 1900988 879, Arabic: 1900988 941

A little girl finds a malnourished cheetah cub caged in the back of a shop in a bazaar. Her mother agrees to buy the animal to save its life, and the little girl rears the cub at their house until it grows into a fine young cheetah.

“The story is beautifully told and stunningly illustrated in watercolour by Susan Keeble... the feeling you are left with is one of joy and hope, whilst giving an insight into conservation and ethical protection of wildlife, particularly big cats.” Connector Magazine.

In this workshop, find out about:  
Cheetahs.  
Raising issues and awareness through a story.  
How a species becomes endangered.  
Our relationship with wild animals.  
Conservation, and how we can help.

**WORKSHOP 4 -**

**SALUKI, HOUND OF THE BEDOUIN**  
Illustrated by Susan Keeble  
Published 2005 by Stacey International, London  
ISBN: 1905299 001

“Readers of any age will enjoy this story of Hamad and his Saluki Sougha. Between them Julia Johnson with her pen and Susan Keeble with her brush have managed to capture so well the intimate relationship between the Bedouin of the desert and their hounds that has endured through centuries to the present day.” Sir Terence Clark, Chairman, the Saluki Coursing Club

In this workshop, find out about:  
Life in the desert.  
Culture and traditions.  
Hunting with the hound and the falcon.  
Extracts from the National Geographic film, "Running with the Wind."  
Examine artefacts.

**STORY WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG READERS**

For 4-7 year olds

**FUN WITH RHymes:**

**WORKSHOP 1 -**

A journey through Arabia from A to Z with “A is for ARABIA”,  
Illustrated by Emily Styles  
Published 2002 by Stacey International, London  
ISBN: 1900988 550

“In lyrical rhymes that are simple enough for young readers to understand, they step through an alphabet of features of life in the Gulf”, Qatar Weekend.

"...charming illustrations and witty rhymes. It introduces children to life in Arabia, with pictures and words explaining Ramadan, Iftar and Eid, khanjars, mosques and souqs." Stacey International.

**WORKSHOP 2 -**

Find out about life in the desert with “ONE HUMPY GRUMPY CAMEL”,  
Illustrated by Emily Styles.  
Published 2003 by Stacey International, London  

"...lively words and beautiful watercolour illustrations... Working her lyrical magic, Johnson cleverly rhymes her way through the different animals, people and customs of the desert as the reader trails the voyage of a humpy, grumpy camel who is looking for his caravan.” Time Out, Dubai.

"...makes counting fun for every child. Illustrated with lively watercolour images of Arabian life from sunrise to sunset..." Stacey International.

“Humpy Grumpy Camel Saves the Day”  
For those who enjoyed “One Humpy Grumpy Camel”, here is the sequel in which Humpy Grumpy proves himself a hero when faced with danger in the wadi!  
With puppet!