

South Dublin EPIC

What would you do, if you could do anything?

A journey through speculative fiction* with young writers from South Dublin

*narrative fiction with supernatural or futuristic elements. Encompassing Science fiction, fantasy, superherofiction, science fantasy, horror and supernatural fiction, as well as their combinations.

Taking inspiration from the history of Ireland and fantasy fiction, as well as hugely popular dystopian sagas like the Walking Dead, the South Dublin EPIC project will aim to offer students a means to explore their lives in a unique and liberating way.

In the way that speculative fiction takes inspiration from real events (World War Z took inspiration from "The Good War": An Oral History of World War II, Game of Thrones riffs on medieval battles, The Day After Tomorrow speculates on climate change, and City of Bohane is a steampunk representation of contemporary Limerick), participants in the EPIC project will be encouraged to look on South County Dublin, it's history, it's geography and their own experience in it, as inspiring source material from which whole new worlds can be built.

There is a 2-step creative process.

VISIT 1. 25 - 30 participants 2.5 hrs – in school

Writing the real world.

1. 'Elemenopy' Workshop - Poetry as reflection on what happens to you.
2. Plot Workshop - Causality and how character decisions makes a story happen
3. Introducing the South Dublin EPIC.

Visit 1 is about encouraging self-expression through Poetry and Prose and building trust with the students. The Elemenopy experience is the workshop on which Colm has built his reputation as one of the leading poetry workshop facilitators in the country. Between this and the story workshop the students will have an increased confidence in their own ability as story makers and risk takers in the creative sense.

South Dublin EPIC will also be outlined to participants. In introducing the South Dublin EPIC and the process of creating it, the concept of '**Decontextualisation**' will be explained.

Decontextualisation is a phrase which the writer will use to describe the taking of real life situations, distorting and fictionalising them. Writing based on real life experience will be mined for use in the fictional worlds we go on to create.

There is potential for a night of readings and performances in all four libraries using the work from these workshops.

VISIT 2. 10 -12 participants. Duration 2.5 hrs – in local library

Leaping from the real into fiction.

1. Origins. Create a character profile of themselves from which they develop a protagonist.
2. World Building. Collaborate on building a fictional world, with pressing challenges, in which to place their hero. (see trial project below)
3. Write short pieces where their character reacts to world events perhaps including experiences from the previous workshops.

When the workshops have ended Colm will collate all the stories and compile them onto a website.

A select few of the stories will be developed as twine (online narrative tool) based stories for the website, which he will co-write with selected young writers.

The South Dublin EPIC website will be designed by [Bob Byrne](#). Internationally renowned comic artist, illustrator and game designer.

The participants will form the foundations of a vibrant network made of young people, the schools and the libraries, which will continue to grow and develop after the project has ended.