

# Simply Cracking Good Stories



## What?

This is a project to create new engaging and accessible fiction for immigrant adults with the most basic reading skills by teaching non-writers to write short fiction books for them.

## Why?

We become proficient readers by reading, and this works best when we read for pleasure. Immigrant adults with little or no schooling in their native language progress very slowly. They rarely read for pleasure due to the lack of engaging fiction at their level.

## Who?

This is a collaborative project combining the skills and knowledge of Newcastle University's Margaret Wilkinson (Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing) and Martha Young-Scholten (Senior Lecturer in Second Language Acquisition).

## How?

In specifically designed workshops we are training non-writers to write short, simple yet engaging stories for adults with the most basic reading skills. A range of books have already been produced and by this process are available to purchase.

## So far?

### Workshops

Margaret and Martha

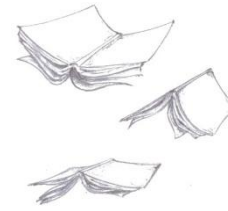
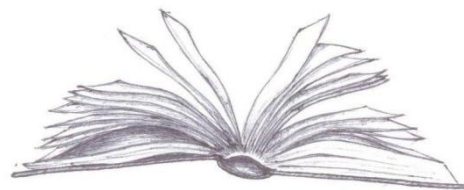
gave 90 minute taster workshops at:

- the annual National Association for Teaching of English and other Community Languages to Adults (NATECLA) conference at the University of Warwick in Coventry on 9 July 2011,
- EU-Speak workshop in Leipzig, Germany on 5 September 2011 for German fiction
- LESLLA conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota on 28 September 2011 for English and Spanish fiction

Martha Young-Scholten gave a two-hour workshop to 25 writers and non-writers at 'Second Start' in New Hampshire, USA on 6 January 2012.

### Books

A range of books have now been written and illustrated by undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Literature and Language departments. Each book was edited by both Margaret and Martha and the final versions are available from our Blurb bookstore:  
<http://www.blurb.com/user/store/MYScholten>.



## What Next?

### 101 Simply Cracking Good Stories

On the 17<sup>th</sup> March the project will be launching a campaign to publish 101 new books, written by writers and non-writers from all over the world for immigrant adults. For more information see our website:

[www.simplycrackinggoodstories.wordpress.com](http://www.simplycrackinggoodstories.wordpress.com).

## Want to Take Part?

Browse our bookstore:

<http://www.blurb.com/user/store/MYScholten>

Visit our Website:

[www.simplycrackinggoodstories.wordpress.com](http://www.simplycrackinggoodstories.wordpress.com)

'Like' our Facebook page:


[www.facebook.com/pages/Simply-Cracking-Good-Stories/34877772198](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Simply-Cracking-Good-Stories/34877772198)

If you want to contribute your own book or would like us to present a workshop, Margaret and Martha would be delighted to work with you. Please don't hesitate to contact:

[margaret.wilkinson@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:margaret.wilkinson@ncl.ac.uk)

[martha.young-scholten@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:martha.young-scholten@ncl.ac.uk)





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