

# Introduction

Welcome to From Fact to Fiction, a creative writing workshop inspired by material from the collections at Explore York Libraries and Archives.



In 2015, Explore York Libraries and Archives, as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded project York: Gateway to History, held a creative writing workshop for families. The workshop was devised and delivered by British crime writer, Helen Cadbury, and took for its inspiration documents from the archives.

This learning resource pack has been created by Helen and Gateway to History project staff. We hope that you and your students will enjoy being inspired by the documents to create your own stories.

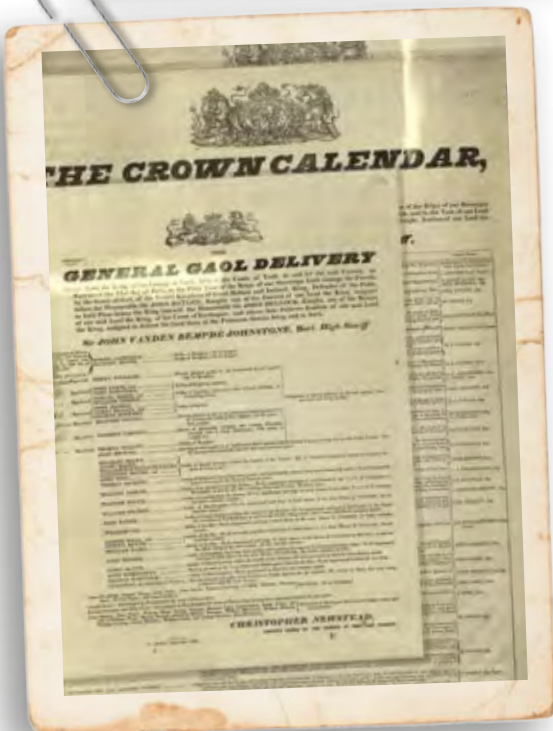
## In this pack you will find

1 x A2 poster of a  
Calendar of Felons

4 x A4 cards with creative  
writing workshop guidance from  
Helen Cadbury

1 x A4 card describing  
York Archives Assize  
Court records

15 x A5 cards listing the  
charge against Hannah Pierson



York Calendar of Felons, 1785-1851 Y/ORD/1/1

We'd love to read any creative writing produced as a response to this pack email [archives@explore.york.org.uk](mailto:archives@explore.york.org.uk) if you'd like to share it with us.

# Author's Advice

'The Archives are a fantastic resource for creative writing, enabling the development of literacy and wider research skills. This learning pack uses historical documents found in the York Archives as a starting point. You can use the same items or adapt the ideas to searches of your own. This pack can be used by schools, groups, individual young writers or families.

The first key principle of creative writing, whether fiction, poetry or script, is the freedom to tell whatever story you want, within the boundaries of the form you have chosen.

The second principle in this kind of writing is to 'free write' the first draft: which means keeping the pen on the page for a set amount of time and seeing what comes. It's especially important with the beginning of a piece to write first and correct afterwards. Punctuation and grammar can be dealt with in the second draft.

When hearing or marking a first draft, teachers should make sure feedback focuses on positives. Creative writing is the most personal form of writing and requires a great deal of positive affirmation. Grammar and spelling in re-drafting are then easier to approach as a means to make this unique piece of work easier for the reader.

Helen Cadbury



Assize Court, c1910,  
Imagine York y94\_450



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Gateway to History



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