**21st January 2021**

**‘Kati Kati a state in between; Transcultural Identities in Wales and the World’**

**WORKSHOP:**

**Liminality and creative writing**

**SLIDE 1**

This workshop is open to your own interpretations. If you want to work in prose, poetry or with screenwriting, that is fine. You don’t need any experience, just give it a go.

**SLIDE 2**

Liminality – can be character, place or time based.

Liminality mean ‘other’ so:

* a character who is apart from those around them perhaps though a learning difficulty or physical complaint
* a place such as a hotel, a train station or on a bus, you are neither in one place or another but passing though on the way to somewhere else.
* At a particular time, such as puberty or a house move, you are experiencing a time that is other and will change.

Liminality can be static or moving.

As a static it can be a character, one caught between identities; for example, multiracial and multicultural; Indian and Caucasian, catholic and protestant, living in Scotland but a Welsh rugby supporter.

By moving it is a transition; for example, childhood to adulthood, one house to another, from home to university.

**SLIDE 3**

Choose which you want to write about, either a character, or a place/time.

(5 minutes)

**SLIDE 4**

Think about what you have chosen. View them or it from an objective point of view. Write a simple description and include why they are liminal.

(10 minutes)

**SLIDE 5**

If it is a character, create an opposing character. Write a simple description.

If you are writing about a time or a place, then create a character that is passing through. Think about the character’s motivation. Why are they there?

(15 minutes)

**SLIDE 6**

Now think about plot. If you have two characters what are they talking or arguing about? Are they in a particular scene? If you have a place or time, then why is the character moving though it? Think about other characters. Is there anyone else present?

(15 minutes)

**SLIDE 7**

Take your protagonist or lead character and create a backstory. Think about where they have come from or, if your protagonist is a place, what is its history?

(10 minutes)

**SLIDE 8**

Now create a conversation or monologue from your characters point of view and explain the liminality of the situation. Include the backstory and/or history. Think about how it is other. Think about how your character will feel. Is it a polite conversation or a rant? Are they happy with the situation or frustrated?

(20 minutes)

**SLIDE 9**

You now have a story about liminality. You can either extend it or keep it as it is. Think about how the story could move on. Where would it lead. If your character is liminal then how would they react within an everyday setting. If it is a place, what would you see if you sat there and simply watched. If it is a time, what were your experiences of that time? How does the liminality in the story change?

Added task:

A change of perspective

Create another character and let them describe the situation you have written about. Is there a cat keeping an eye out? Of perhaps a friend watching on… Change the perspective of the story.

By changing the perspective, you have created another story but also allowed yourself to see it from another point of view. Is this ‘view’ better than the first? Is the liminality obvious or not? If not do you have to emphasis it? It is a similar task to turning a painting you are doing upside down. You are just checking it from another angle.