



THE BRAINWAVES CLUB



Semester 1: The Apprentices – Grades 2 and 3

“WHAT’S HIDDEN ON THE BOOKSHELF”

Everyone longs to find ‘that special book’. The one that you can’t put down, that brings your imagination alive, that doesn’t leave your thoughts. Whether it’s a mystery, fantasy, historical fiction, fable or a classic, we often find new books by chance. This semester our focus will be on reading, discussing ideas from texts, developing writing skills and expanding our appreciation for different styles of writing, character and settings. We’ll also have ample opportunity to experience new adventures. Share and learn from each other as we create our very own Book Club that will live on in your world long after this first experience together has ended. Don’t forget to bring your Reader’s Notebook to each meeting.

Club members should be prepared to share the recent books they have read, talk about authors, genres and what makes a good book. Club members are encouraged to read the set texts in preparation for each club session so that the most can be gained from discussion, writing tasks and collaborative projects. These sessions will be hands on and call for everyone to play their part!

Meeting 1 – What A Classic!

(Focus: Old and new classic adventures)

Set text – ‘Five on Treasure Island - The Famous Five’ by Enid Blyton

Let’s revisit a classic and discover how an author builds a story, introduces each character, and captures our imagination while drawing the reader into a mystery. Comparing the style of such a classic series as the *Famous Five*, with styles of today, we will challenge your willingness to try different styles of books. Explore how the characters in this series complement each other and how each has a role to play.

Take the time to create a character of your own to join the mystery. Develop a passport and have a go at writing a description to introduce this member of the famous team to all of us. What does this adventure add to our bookshelf?

Meeting 2 – Exploring The Junior Fiction Shelf

(Focus: story settings)

Set text – ‘The Secret Book Club’ by Ann M Martin

The environment where a story is set is critical to how the characters inter-relate. Descriptive language is often used to help us find our way around a new neighbourhood. Work out how everything is laid out up and down Main Street, so that as we peep in the windows and see the characters interacting we learn a little more about the adventure continues around us. In this age relevant story, discover how a group of friends are supported to start their own Book Club and what challenges lay ahead.

Members will take out their design pencil and create collaborative neighbourhoods. We’ll peep through windows and find new characters where we least expect them. Together we will establish our own Book Club and learn what approaches will keep us engaged. What does this work of junior fiction add to our bookshelf?

Meeting 3 – Journey to the Past

(Focus : historical fiction)

Set text – ‘Meeting Poppy’ by Gabrielle Wang

In this new release, it's 1864 in northern Victoria where we meet Poppy and the other kids. Poppy and Gus are living at a mission, when Gus runs away to try and make a new life for them both. With Gus somewhere out in the bush and things go wrong, Poppy makes the courageous decision to put on a disguise and head out to find Gus. Along the way Poppy is surprised to not only meet Fisher the most loyal friend ever, the well-known Bushranger Harry Power and other friends, but Poppy also finds out so much more about their past and future. Let's track and map the area where these discoveries are made. Let's learn about life during this period - the Gold Rush! What does this historical fiction add to our bookshelf?

Meeting 4 – Readers’ Choice

(Focus: humorous writing; reviewing a book)

Choose a story of your choice by Andy Griffiths

Andy Griffiths is one of Australia’s most popular children’s writers. He is the author of over 20 books, including nonsense verse, short stories, comic novels and plays. Over the past 15 years Andy’s books have been *New York Times* bestsellers, won over 40 children’s choice awards, been adapted as a television cartoon series and sold over 5 million copies worldwide. And now - here’s your chance to review and rate a book of your choice. There will be a wealth of choice at this meeting as each member presents a short review. We

will hear about the plot, an outline of two characters, talk about the humor that's created and what obstacle Andy Griffiths presents. You will also have the chance to write your own back cover blurb for a book of your choice, or even take the challenge and try for a short story. How many books will we add to our bookshelf this week?

Meeting 5 – Fables with a Moral

(Focus: oral storytelling; stories that teach)

Tick, tock, tick, tock - the 'Only Clock in Town' never stops! Why is it that on this very day the long hand asks the short hand the unaskable question? Fables have been around forever and have always been used to teach values through story rather than directly. Discover what the long hand has asked and discover what is needed to put things right, and as you try to uncover the moral of the story!

In small groups, club members will roll up their sleeves and take to the stage – and practise their story telling skills to share the moral of the story. You will have the chance to choose a virtue and write your own short fable that tells us about the virtue that you have chosen. Which fable will we add to our bookshelf?

Meeting 6 – How Fantastic

(Focus: Fantasy)

Set text – 'Angel Creek' by Sally Rippin

A challenge for the eager reader, this new novel by the amazing author Sally Rippin finds Jelly at Christmas, as she introduces us to an imaginary character and treats us to join the characters in keeping a secret. This book allows us to reflect on how fantasy characters are created. Would or should you keep the secret that is central to Angel Creek?

Members will create their own fantasy character and creatively represent the image in their mind. What colour, how big, how small, will it fly? During this meeting you will create a secret scenario for your fantasy character and write about the implications of the secret. It is all up to your imagination. What does this fantasy add to our bookshelf?

Meeting 7 – What A Picture

(Focus: graphic fiction)

Pictures, they're not only for little kids! There is a huge choice of graphic fiction that helps us to read in different ways. Club members will explore how illustrations tell and enhance a story. Drawing from the legendary works of Graeme Base, we will think outside the norm, dive into the worlds that he has created and transport ourselves to look out from the pages, perhaps for the first time. In doing so the group will create a gallery of descriptive illustrations, each with its own style, character and message.

Which work of graphic fiction will we add to our bookshelf?

Meeting 8 – Your choice

Now is the chance for each member to be creative. Come prepared with your favourite book under your arm and dressed to impress as one of the characters from the story. For our final meeting we really want to review the semester and stock up our bookshelf. We will interview each other to discover more about our character and what makes a favourite book for each of us – we won't forget to bring our Reader's Notebook and pencil to take notes to keep as a record.

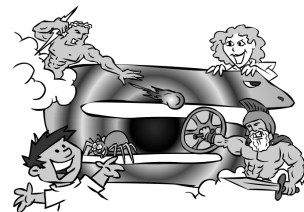
The final step is capturing us standing side by side in that final flash – just as our new treasures line up on the shelf.

What's the final treasure for us to add to our bookshelf?

What to bring

- Well stocked pencil case with writing pencils, sharpener, rubber for edits, coloured pencils and Textas, scissors and glue stick.

Don't forget to get hold of the set books for each meeting ahead of time, to help you read each before each meeting.



About the presenter

Annette Subhani has been involved in the education of children of all ages during the past two decades. She is a parent, a motivator and a person of varied life experience with a passion and desire to contribute to the character development of children from an early age. Annette has a love of reading and literature, story-telling, the arts and living life. She thrives on working collaboratively with children and encourages them to question the world around them and to use their creativity to document and present all that they learn.

