



Term 2 2021: Tolkiens – Years 5 and 6

Venue: Forest Hill College

Term Fee: \$285

(Semester enrolments available for \$570)

1 May

Meeting 1: Language Alive!

Focus: The history of language

Session 1 Symbols to Written Language

Languages and modes of communication are as diverse as humans themselves, but it is only comparatively recently that written homogenized language has become the prime method of expression. Many cultures evolved to have a written language and many others had different forms of communicating: hieroglyphics, weaving, the spoken word, smoke messages, arrangements of leaves and vegetation and dance were and still are effective ways of communicating an idea or a story. In the first part of this session, you will read a number of stories in different forms and you will become decoders of some of the earliest of languages. Once you've cracked the linguistic code, create your own. What would you leave behind as a message for future generations?

Session 2 History of Language - From the Local to the Global...Language and You!

What languages do you speak? What geographical incidents or accidents have led to the creation of global languages? Why is Latin a 'dead' language? Why has English become a global language? And what is the difference between a language and a dialect? Etymology, the history and origins of words, is a fascinating subject. How has technology created more effective use of language? In the second half of our exploration into language you will use maps to explore the way that languages have spread across the world.

Before you come to this session do some research into language in your family. What languages did your ancestors speak? What language is your mother tongue and what language do you enjoy speaking?

15 May

Meeting 2: Kids can change the World

Focus: Resilience in Literature and Life

Which of these names do you recognise? Anne Frank, Marley Dias, Nicholas Nowinger, Malala Yousofzai, Greta Thunberg...Sound familiar? These and many other children have succeeded against all odds in times of uncertainty, war, famine and loss, becoming beacons of light in our modern world. In this meeting you will investigate how children's messages have been transmitted via auto/biography, diaries and journaling as well as the spoken word. We will explore some of the issues they have raised and consider what impact they have made. How have these young people been portrayed by the media and how have their messages been used by politicians and other adults? The recent spat between Donald Trump and Greta Thunberg for example reveals how the power of children's voice can make even the President of the United States uncomfortable.

After investigating some young activists/voices develop your factual or biased (depending on what lens you choose) auto/biography.

29 May

Meeting 3: Writer on a Mission

Focus: Exploring sci-fi

Science fiction has been prominent since the 1920s and is regarded by some as the most popular writing genre of our century. But what is science fiction and how does it differ from adventure or fantasy? It once had a rather nerdy reputation but is now the 'cool kid on the block' due in part to its strong roots in comic book and film culture. Any kid who watches blockbuster movies on TV knows that their parents were raised with ET, Star Wars and even in some cases Star Trek! Science fiction continues to evolve however and that is what keeps it such an interesting genre for young readers.

In this meeting you will explore the origins of sci fi, from Jules Verne with his explorations beneath the waves and under the ground (when a submarine was new technology) to the groundbreaking War of the Worlds by H.G Wells and more recently the film adaptation of A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle. Science fiction has such a wide scope that any topic that embraces new technology can probably be incorporated into a ripping good yarn!

You will create either a radio play designed to trick a 21st century audience into suspended disbelief or write the text and design a comic strip pitch for a new science fiction series for Netflix - we will focus on target audience, ways we can make the audience believe the premise of your story is real. 3D glasses anyone? (April fools hoaxes do this every year.)

19 June

Meeting 4: What Magic!

Focus: Magical Realism - A Literary Oxymoron or A Way of Reframing Reality?

Imagine a world where extraordinary things can happen. Some of the world's most beloved writers and artists are exponents of magic realism... where the real world exists, but extraordinary and magical events can and do happen. In this meeting we'll begin by exploring its impact on artists (eg Frieda Kahlo, Dali and more recently in Melbourne, Katherine Gailer and Maria Pena) as we take a trip into the world of surrealist imagery and mythic symbolism.

We will also explore some of the best examples of magical realism in children's literature: we'll look at works by Roald Dahl who is one of the best loved writers of this genre; David Almond's Skellig; The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman and Tasmanian author Robbie Arnott's Flames and The Rain Heron. What elements of magical realism are incorporated successfully and why is this such a powerful genre?

Magical realism in children's and teenagers' literature covers a broad spectrum. What elements of magical realism could you include in a piece of writing about your life? Create an 'Imagine a Day in the Life Of' story and turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. Then accompany it with appropriate images inspired by today's meeting.

What to bring

Each week please bring a well-stocked pencil case (including scissors, good textas and coloured pencils, pens and/or writing pencils, sticky tape or a glue stick) and an A4 notebook.

About the club leader: Jenny Frewin

Jenny is a teacher, teacher trainer and counsellor. After ten years teaching English and English Literature internationally, many intrepid adventures later (including the Inca Trek and the Headhunters' Trail in Borneo) Jenny has settled in Melbourne with her husband. In her spare time, she enjoys writing, gardening, supporting vulnerable young people through out of home care and playing with her pets, puppy Bertie and Minnie the cat.