

The BRAINWAVES Club

Term 2 2021: Tolkiens – Years 5 and 6

Venue: Ryde Public School

Term Fee: \$285.00

TAKING ON TECHNIQUES

Which authors do you specifically read to learn their techniques? How do you engage readers in your stories and bring them to life? And how do you appeal to and engage your readers through the senses and emotions? These are intriguing questions that authors have grappled with since ancient times. However, by embedding good storytelling techniques you are unlocking the key to the heart of good writing! Great writers study the structure and form by delving into the secrets behind the words, to discover what techniques will powerfully inspire their readers and the generations that follow. Themes covered in these sessions, use successful literary devices combined with new media technologies to express universal ideas across time, ages and cultures.

24 April

Meeting 5: **Let's Do The Twist!**

Focus: **Foreshadowing, Red Herrings, Creative Writing**

Everyone loves a good movie with a twist! In this session, the Tolkiens will create their own favourite movie scene and then create a twist. Using subtle misdirection, such as red herrings; some foreshadowing whilst still ensuring their twist is believable and makes sense, the challenge for the Tolkiens will be to make eyebrows raise! ***Please read and/or view your favourite movie. Use Adobe Capture or i-movie to capture your favourite part of the movie. Bring your movie clip to class, ready to share your insights with the group.***

8 May

Meeting 6: **That's Flashy!**

Focus: **Flash Fiction**

"I would have written a shorter letter, but I did not have the time." Blaise Pascal, French philosopher and mathematician. Writing with brevity is often harder than when you can use lots of words. Practice writing a short 60 word story in the style of a 'flash fiction'. In this session Tolkiens will write a twitter story; building on a long tradition of writers who respond to Hemingway's writing challenge: *For sale: new shoes. Never worn.* ***Preparation: View examples of flash fiction and think about writing a fun flash fiction to sell something. Bring in examples that you can share.***

22 May

Meeting 7: **Keep it Short**

Focus: **Symbolism, Irony, Hyperbole**

Tolkiens read a chapter from one of Tim Winton's famous short novels and then draw inspiration from his literary devices such as symbolism, irony and hyperbole to create their own comic strip. We will apply our understanding of these literary devices to review and rewrite the comic theme and will have the option to share with the group. ***Please read one of Tim Winton's novels. Some examples are: An Open Swimmer, Shallows, Cloudstreet, Dirt Music and Breath, Lockie Leonard Human Torpedo.***

5 June

Meeting 8: Change Agents

Focus: Non-Fiction Literature

In this session, Tolkiens will write a science non-fiction change-agent story. We will research the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and write your own climate action campaign for a trendy Australian environmental magazine. The challenge will be to engage the audience in your story by showing how one person can make a huge difference when they support climate action in the world. The criteria will be based on one SDG theme and demonstrate writing skills through engaging headlines, dynamic flow, emotive theme supporting one big change idea. **Visit United Nations SDG's <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> and choose one of the goals that you would like to promote in your magazine article.**

What to bring:

Please bring a notebook and a well-stocked pencil case to each meeting as well as a hat, drink and snack for the break (no nuts please).

About the Club Leader: Dr Bronwen Wade-Leeuwen

Bronwen has been lecturing at Macquarie University on the Teacher Education programs for the past 10 years. She is a trained primary school teacher and has over a decade of classroom experience. Bronwen holds an MA (Environmental Design) from Canberra University and is an Adobe Education Leader (AEL). Bronwen gained a PhD from the School of Education, Macquarie University, and specialises in bringing creativity into the classroom mix of subject areas, including encouraging children how to enjoy learning English language combined with new media technologies in an innovative and fun way.