

# The BRAINWAVES Club

**Term 4 2021 | Imagineers | Years 3 and 4**  
**Venue: Canberra Girls Grammar School – Junior School, Grey St Deakin**  
**Term Fee: \$285.00**

During this Semester we will explore the kinds of language that shape people's moods, from hilarious to creepy, serious to silly. Club members will develop skills in persuasive writing, spontaneous story-telling, factual reporting, character development and writing 'with colour'. We will look at the 'secret language' of Londoners, which is called Cockney rhyming slang and come up with some original words and expressions of our own, to add 'colour' to our stories.

For some people, fictional characters, such as Sherlock Holmes, Yoda from *Star Wars*, Harry Potter and Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* can sometimes seem more meaningful and 'real' to us than our friends and relatives. We will dip our toes into the intriguing world of character development and create an original character of our own. Who knows? The character you create may one day achieve world-wide fame among readers of fiction.

We will also ask ourselves the important questions: who is my audience and why am I writing this story?

There are no 'must read' books to read beforehand but Apprentices are encouraged to read *Matilda* by Roald Dahl (Session 5) and to bring along an example of a favourite story (Session 1.) All other excerpts for study will be provided.

## **Meeting 5: That's not the way to do it!**

**Focus: Developing our own style**

There are times when we disagree with the thoughts or actions of a character in a story. Think about a character in the story you are reading now. What did they do, think, or feel, that you disagree with? What would you have done differently? How would this change the plot? Using excerpts from Roald Dahl's *Matilda*, we will discuss different possible endings to the story and how the character of Matilda might have been created differently. Did we prefer our own version to that of Roald Dahl?

**Meeting requirement:** Read *Matilda* by Roald Dahl

## **Meeting 6: About Time**

**Focus: Visual Literacy**

Modern technology is amazing but no-one has yet managed to build a time machine to take us backward or forward in time. We will look at four stories, written over a period of about 100 years and see how the different authors dealt with the subject of time travel. The books include *The First Men in the Moon* by Jules Verne and *Operation Luna* by Charles Chilton, as well as examples from Doctor Who (in his many incarnations.)

If you had a time machine, would you choose to go forward or back in time? Who and what might you expect to meet and would life be better or worse for you than it is now?

Use a story board to plan your story, so that your ending is not too abrupt. This will also help you to better develop the type of character (human or non-human) that you are likely to meet.

## **Meeting 7: Super Heroes**

### **Focus: More about Character**

In modern popular fiction, a superhero is a type of heroic character who possesses power that go beyond the normal. The majority of these so-called 'superheroes' are male. Why do you think this might be? And nearly all of them (such as Superman, Batman and Spider-Man) have powers that ordinary human beings could never have (such as being immune to bullets, like Superman.) However, The Phantom is an exception. He is not a super human – but a superb human. He has developed his mental and physical powers to an amazing degree.

In this session, we will look at the different characteristics of these 'heroes' and decide which one is our favourite and why. We will then develop our own 'ideal' super (or superb) hero and describe how we might use our powers to change the world. What sort of a character would you create?

## **Meeting 8: Tangled Tales**

### **Focus: New stories for old**

One of the important qualities in a writer is to be able to convince you that what he / she says is true. But what if the authors of many well-known fairy tales got it wrong? What if the Three Little Pigs were actually the Five Little Mice, or if Goldilocks was the wicked stepmother of Red Riding Hood? Or if the Seven Dwarfs were involved in Humpty Dumpty's accident? Or if the Wicked Witch of the West was just a sadly misunderstood young woman? In this meeting, we'll mix up the good and bad guys, play with theme and structure and see what new adventures we can come up with. Will our creations be as deeply satisfying as the originals? If so, how? If not, why not?

So, hop on the Yellow Brick Road and see where it takes us!

### **What to bring**

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

### **About the club leader Ken Fraser**

Ken is a former primary school teacher who still works with children in Canberra. He has five grandchildren, two of whom attend primary school. Ken writes short stories for children and has recently published a book of 99 short stories called *Tales Out of School*. Many of the stories feature the natural wisdom and kindness of children. Ken has spoken at conferences around the world on topics such as self-esteem, personality type and emotional literacy and lists playing the bagpipes as his other main hobby.