

The GATEWAYS BRAINWAVES Club

Term 3 2021: Imagineers – Years 3 and 4

Venue: Ryde Public School

Term Fee: \$285.00

VOICE IT!

What or who gives a piece of writing its voice? Is it structure, tone, genre, the characters, the omnipresent narrator or simply the whim of the author? This semester, Imagineers will explore how the concept of voice in literature has historically evolved and what are the critical elements which create awesome pieces of writing that feel like they somehow *speak* to us?

24 July

Meeting 1: First Impressions and Second Looks

Focus: Creative non-fiction, introspection and point of view

At a first glance, the humble fly is just an annoying, useless insect but a second look reveals something far more amazing. Butterflies seem to steal all the attention in the insect world, so we think it's time to give the fly a second look. This session, the Imagineers will challenge their preconceptions as they explore, examine and appreciate a variety of creatures, in addition to the humble fly, and view them from a different perspective. Let's give them and their inner beauty a voice! The Imagineers will select their own creature to highlight its *awesomeness* in short story format, as inspired by our selected text. As we investigate, we will discover that a beauty can hide a sinister secret while the seemingly mundane may reveal something truly magical. ***Please read: I, Fly: The Buzz About Flies and How Awesome They Are by Bridget Heos.***

7 August

Meeting 2: The Imagineers are Hiring...

Focus: Q&A technique, interviews and selling your skills

"The Imagineers are currently hiring a new recruit for their team of creative and imaginative individuals. New voices are required. Inquisitive, inspired, communicative and gregarious candidates are encouraged to apply. Provide a cover letter listing your suitability and skills and bring it along to the job interview."

Conducting an interview is truly a skill, as is listening to and answering questions when you have a panel of people all putting the attention on *you*! Today, you will practise being BOTH the interviewer and the interviewee. We will start with the job description and then we will create our Curriculum Vitae (CV). What tactics will you use to overcome nerves in your interview? What are the best questions to ask to ensure you are seeing the real potential in an applicant? Should the interviewee have questions for the interviewer? After all, they need to be happy about the potential workplace they're hoping to enter. And what role does body language play in this kind of situation? Don't forget to come dressed in your most professional outfit! ***Please watch this clip on [conducting an interview](#).***

21 August

Meeting 3: The Side-Kick Adventure

Focus: Creating believable, relatable relationships

Just as there are no small roles on stage (only small actors), there are no small characters in a book. Every character serves a purpose and functions as a vital cog in the workings of any piece of writing. That is why sidekicks are so essential. Who would Batman be without Robin or who would SpongeBob Square Pants be without Patrick the Starfish? Sidekicks help flesh out the hero and they provide an interesting dynamic and a way to narrate the mental leaps of the hero. They too have a vital voice in the narration of a text.

In this session, the Imagineers will create their very own super sidekick. What sort of a person would that be? How do we make them relatable? Is it with character flaws, odd idiosyncrasies or ceaseless loyalty? Looking at the peculiar relationship between the eccentric Sherlock Holmes and the somewhat uninspiring Dr Watson, the Imagineers will explore the idea of opposites, of flaws and virtues and of course, friendship.

Finally, having created a brand-new type of sidekick, we will place them at dramatic crossroads and write a dialogue that must reveal something about the relationship between hero and sidekick. **Please read: *Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes (A Stepping-Stone Book) by Judith Conaway (Adapter), Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Author), Lyle Miller (Illustrator).***

4 September

Meeting 4: Grow Your World

Focus: Sensory Stimuli, onomatopoeia, visual language

Get ready for the grandest adventure as we travel through the unexplored world of impossibilities, just as was done in Mia Cassany's wondrously whimsical text, *An Atlas of Imaginary Places*. How exciting to think we also have the literary licence to create such things as a bubble-gum volcano or a jungle where animals switch their spots and stripes at every sneeze! Starting with a tiny speck, a seed in the palm of our hands, we shall grow our literary world into a mighty kingdom where the unimaginable abounds and where everything is possible. But can we find a thread to link together each of the creations? Together, our band of voyagers shall chart its wilderness and explore every nook as we meet this exciting world's unrealistic, unreasonable, impracticable, irrational; yet somehow wonderfully idealistic inhabitants. Let's hear your imagination and by the end of this session, we will have produced an Imagineers *Atlas of Illusory Destinations*. **Please read: *An Atlas of Imaginary Places by Mia Cassany. (Available at your local bookstore).***

What to Bring:

Each week please bring an A4 notebook and a well-stocked pencil case. Please also bring a hat, drink and snack for the break (no nuts please).

About the Club Leader:

Zuzi Fort studied at the University of Western Sydney – Nepean (Theatre) and at the University of Technology – Sydney (Communication – directing and scriptwriting). She is a published author and has worked extensively as an actor, director, scriptwriter, drama coach, radio/TV host as well as a stunt performer. Highlights include performing Moliere at the Belvoir, acting with David Ritchie in *Place with the Pigs*, playing Tiger Lily at Capitol Theatre and performing stunts on the Superman movie. For over 15 years, Zuzi has worked with children and young adults encouraging their creativity, developing confidence and essential life skills.