



invites gifted Year 3 and 4 children

with a love of writing and literature

## ***'Alice and Will's Amazing Adventures Back in Time'***

**G.A.T.E.WAYS** is an independent organization offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. Established in 1994, G.A.T.E.WAYS runs a range of stimulating school programs as well as the Saturday *Brainwaves Club*. This *JOURNEY* for both girls and boys will run over four sessions.

This historical fiction-based program will challenge the reader and writer in you. Using a range of texts and some powerful planning tools, we will travel back in time to different eras in Australia's past, along with two imaginary time travellers, Alice and William, who will become the main characters in our own writing pieces. We will extend our writing skills by focusing on the historical fiction plot, the development of an authentic character and enhancing our descriptive language. To ensure we have a factual foundation for our writing, we will collect evidence about each era from the texts, general knowledge and supplementary sources of information. During each session, we will focus on a different story-writing skill. Please join us as we bring our time travellers to life!

### **Session One – Setting the Scene**

**(skill focus: what is historical fiction)**

Our time travel begins as we try to determine the elements of historical fiction, and how a writer goes about recreating a particular era. These might include making the characters follow certain behaviours that were acceptable at the time or having the characters talk a certain way and use particular words typical of the period. It might also include reference to a particular event that happened at the time the story was set. We will explore some great stories written by Australian authors including Jackie French, Sally Rippin, Bryce Courtney and Gabrielle Wong. Our major focus during this session will be to build up a profile for Alice and William who will become main characters in our writing pieces. We will start to think about and record key information about their ages, social class, general life style and hobbies/sports as it will be these things that alter as we travel through time and influence the stories you will write in future sessions. We will develop a 'story map' that will help structure each writing piece. Finally, after our planning is in place, each of us will be challenged to put on our 'writing hats' and complete a series of small writing tasks focusing on the use of descriptive writing and attention to detail, both of which will bring our stories to life.

### **Session Two – Back to the Beginning**

**(skill focus: creating an authentic historical plot)**

Set text – *Tom Appleby Convict Boy* by Jackie French

In this session we travel back to the beginning of European settlement in Australia to unearth the unique conditions that Tom, the convict boy and other convicts like him, found themselves in during the late 1700's. We will find out all about his trials and tribulations including the loss of his father, his time sailing with the First Fleet and his new experiences in the strange land so far from home. Who is that mysterious person he catches sight of in the bush and how did early settlers survive as food was running out? Alice and William will be re-profiled to fit these times, and then you will use your 'story map' and the knowledge you now have about the convict era, to create an outline for an authentic 1700's adventure, with our time travellers playing a starring role. How will Alice and William interact with Tom and will we decide they are convict children or indigenous children? The skill focus for this session will be to create a plot that is true to the historical era. The challenge will not be the length of the story, but rather on making the story as real as possible!

### **Session Three – Back to the Bush!**

**(skill focus: creating an authentic historical character)**

Set text – *The Bushranger's Boys* by Alison Lloyd

Bushranging – living off the land and being supported by or stealing from free settlers – was either chosen as a preferred way of life by escaped convicts or was a result of the lack of supplies in the early settlements. During this session, we will travel to 1840's colonial Australia to find out what life was like at the time bushrangers roamed the countryside. We will want to know how Jem responded when coming face to face with a bushranger and why he called on the bush boys of his own age to help him out! Our initial task will be to explore and profile some well-known bushrangers and we will try to understand if they were true villains or if some of them were campaigners for social justice who were simply trying to address

inequality. Will you give yours the 'benefit of the doubt'? The focus this session will be to create an authentic character through the building up of as much detail as possible considering their lifestyle, speech, appearance, attitudes and actions which make this person typical of the 1840s. Your original story will describe what happens when Alice and William cross the path of one of these bushrangers.

#### **Session Four – Back to the Top End**

**(skill focus: using a series of diary entries in writing)**

Set text – *Meet Pearlie (a four book series)* by Gabrielle Wong

Wartime is an uncertain time for anyone, but Pearlie has no idea what is about to happen in Darwin during the 1940's, when the Japanese bomb the northern capital of Darwin. When Pearlie becomes a detective and the war intensifies we see a unique chain of events set in motion as Pearlie loses her best friend, her parents, her home and finally her animals. In this session we will explore what life was like for the diverse community at this time of upheaval and this will help us bring Alice and William to wartime Darwin when the quiet and simple lives of its citizens 'explodes'. Our writing skill focus during our final session will be to write using a series of diary entries to create a record of what happens to Alice and William during the days leading up to the bombing of Darwin.

The program will conclude with a celebration of work created during our Journey together.

#### **What to bring**

- A notebook
- A plastic pocketed A4 display book
- A well-stocked pencil case with writing pencil, sharpener, eraser for edits, coloured pencils and Textas, scissors and glue stick
- The set Texts
  - *Tom Appleby Convict Boy* by Jackie French
  - *Bushranger Boys (from Do You Dare? Series)* by Alison Lloyd
  - *Meet Pearlie (1 or more of the books from the Pearlie OAG series)* by Gabrielle Wong

Please get hold of the book as soon as possible by **borrowing each from a school or local library** or purchasing the stories so that students read and prepare for the Journey ahead of time. Please note above when each text will be the focus of a specific session. It is assumed that each student will have read the book prior to the session as this will enable them to capture the spirit of each era. It would be helpful if they can bring a copy to the relevant session. Accessing books online can often help and can be cheaper. Examples include: [www.booko.com.au](http://www.booko.com.au)  
[www.dymocks.com.au](http://www.dymocks.com.au)

#### **About the presenter**

Annette Subhani is an educator, a parent and a person of varied life experience with a passion and desire to contribute to the character development of children from an early age. She has been presenting with G.A.T.E.WAYS for over five years and she thrives on working collaboratively with children. Annette encourages students to question the world around them and to transfer their learning to real-life. She has a love of history, reading and literature, maths, story-telling, the arts and living life.