



A G.A.T.E.WAYS JOURNEY PROGRAM

for gifted, creative Year 1 and 2 children

with a love of stories and writing

'Beyond the Yellow Brick Road'

G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organization offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. The Journey will run over four sessions, and will provide an age appropriate exploration of the popular story, *The Wizard of Oz*. The story is set in a grey and boring Kansas USA where we find the female hero of our story, *Dorothy*. She is quickly flown 'over the rainbow' by a 'whirlwind' to the imaginary land of *Oz* where she kills the *Witch of the West*, is given magical *silver shoes* from the *Witch of the East* and makes friends with a speaking *Scarecrow*, *Tin Man* and *Lion*. The four friends head along the *Yellow Brick Road* in search of a piece of themselves which is missing.

During our Journey students will gain skills in reviewing text, exploring the contribution of main characters and asking deeper questions about the 'Hero's Journey' as we explore Dorothy's quest to find her inner strength. Along the way, students will also develop skills in descriptive language, and explore parts of speech. Students will leave the Journey having written, edited and published their own story set in a new land, *beyond the yellow brick road* with a new set of amazing characters, and them as the 'hero' of their own quest.

Session One – The Land of Oz

We begin by using an 'Oz Grid' to explore in-depth the plot and setting of this extraordinary story. Why has Dorothy chosen to walk the Yellow Brick Road, who is the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion, and why is the Emerald City green? During our small group analysis, students will use a continuum to consider which character is good, bad or in-between. Using a class web we will explore some of the book's important themes: that the 'grass is always greener' elsewhere, the notion of home, the struggle between good and evil, the importance of friendship and the search for identity. Throughout this session students will discuss their insights, take notes, work in groups, individually and as a whole class

Session Two – The Land Beyond

This creative session builds on the learning and insights from the first session as we work in small groups to create together a new land beyond Oz where students will find themselves the 'hero'. I wonder if the new land will be set on an island, down a fast-flowing river or even up a magical tree? We will develop a list of possible themes to guide our plot, descriptions of a new set of crazy and unimagined characters, each with their own flaw and want. Could we find a dirty pair of shoes that just needs to walk to keep alive, or a golden bird that wants to fly, or even a fish that longs to live beyond the water? In pairs, students will have a go at using descriptive writing to explain one part of the story and present it to the whole class. Students will commence work on individual story plans outlining the elements of their story and use a structured storyboard that explores the 'hero journey' to guide writing of their imaginary story.

Session Three – Words, they are always important!

As our stories evolve at home and during this session, we will work to enhance our writing through focusing on the clever and rich descriptive language of *The Wizard of Oz*. Careful choice of words by an author make a story come to life: 'rusty looking oven', 'the wind shrieked loudly about her', and 'they came to a great forest...that shut out the remaining daylight'. Students will take on the role of Word Detectives to work through a series of challenges to explore the role of verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs in writing. A priority of the session will be to edit the individual stories in preparation for finalizing their writing at home and publishing during the final session.

Session Four – New Stories Revealed

This session will bring all our learning and skills together as final touches are made to individual stories so that the text can be transferred to individual books, illustrations added, title page completed and an author's blurb created. Our stories will be published in time for a final story-time when we will share with each other our amazing stories from '*Beyond Oz!*', and if we are lucky even interview one of our new 'authors' along the way.

What to bring

- A snack (no nuts please)
- A notebook and a well-stocked pencil case with writing pencil, sharpener, eraser for edits, coloured pencils, textas, scissors, and glue stick

- The set Text for this Journey is *The Wizard of Oz* – choose one of the versions below
 - *The Wizard of Oz*, by Frank L Baum and illustrated by Charles Santore - ISBN 9781402766251 (preferred option which seems to be difficult to find at present)
 - *The Wizard of Oz*, by Rosie Dickins and illustrated by Mauro Evangelista - ISBN 9780746070536
 - *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, by Frank L Baum and illustrated by Robert R. Ingpen - ISBN 9781848775282

Accessing through a library is quick, or online can be reasonably priced, but needs time to be delivered. Examples include:
www.booko.com.au
www.bookdepository.com
www.dymocks.com.au

Homework and Assessment:

After each session children may be given homework. It is expected that this will be completed by the next session.

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 almost three 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 reading and literature, maths, story-telling, the arts and living life.

