

Invites Year 5 and 6 gifted children with a

love of literature and writing to

'Books With Bite

..Exploring Classic Gothic Fiction'



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. Vampires, zombies and monsters: these are the creatures of the night who deviously delight us in movies, TV shows and books, and deliciously devour our imaginations and dreams! This literary, historical and creative writing Journey delves into the famous gothic novels that inspired *Twilight*, *Vampire Diaries* and *Harry Potter*, and will take us into the depths of Count Dracula's lair, up to the original mad scientist's laboratory where Frankenstein's monster first breathed life, and down through gas-lit London where the streets are being stalked by Dr. Jekyll – or is it Mr. Hyde?!

We'll be investigating just how these fearsome, fabulous and fang-tastic stories shaped-modern fiction and pop culture, and bite back with unusual and invigorating creative writings of our own! Ready to sink your teeth into some amazing literature?!

Requirements:

* Bring writing materials and an A4 notebook and paper, a small photo of yourself with your name and school on the back, a drink and snack for energy and a stamped, self-addressed DL envelope for your report. In Terms 1 and 4, also bring a hat.

Doing the Zombie Shuffle!

You have been given three wishes. What would you ask for? Ah – be careful though, for in the classic creepy tale of *The Monkey's Paw*, wishes don't always come true in the way you hoped! The idea of zombies challenges our personal quests for uniqueness and individuality, and this marvelous little fable is our introduction into the gothic world! Once we make a few wish lists of our own, we'll be creating some zombie comedy in person and in writing as we take a very un-grave look at some creations from beyond the grave!

Spectacular Dracula!

Forget those slow and shambling zombies: Bram Stoker brought romance and mysticism into gothic fiction with his legendary novel about a new kind of creature. However, you're about to find out that Edward Cullen's literary grandfather was no vampire vegetarian! Vampires personify our concerns about power hierarchies and being controlled, and the original vampire overlord is still as stunning and surprising today as he was nearly 200 years ago. Let's explore how he influenced vampire mythology and write a scene from the screenplay for his new movie that is set in the modern world!

Who is Frankenstein?

The immortal novel of a brilliant scientist and his remarkable creation is also (and amazingly) a fascinating study about how parents and kids feel about each other, and also about how we as writers feel about 'creating' our works of art! One of the most extraordinary things about Mary Shelley's novel (other than she was only about six years older than you when she wrote it!) is its 'ring' structure: this session we'll be experimenting in our own creative writing laboratory to try and reproduce her remarkable narrative shape!

Hyde and Seeking Jekyll

Jekyll and Hyde has become a cliché in modern pop culture to symbolize the monster in all of us: it's where werewolves, shape-shifters and dual-personality characters have their literary roots! It's hard to believe Robert Louis Stevenson's gothic novel (yes – the guy who wrote *Treasure Island*!), was originally written as a mystery story, but the clever pace and enduring excitement of the novel comes from its dynamic diary format. Today you'll be launching your own gothic diary to chronicle the first glimpses of a new and unique creature of the night! Will you be meeting a vampire, battling a zombie, creating a monster – or maybe becoming one yourself?!

About the Presenter

Kim Edwards teaches English literature and creative writing to university and high school students, and drama and theatre skills to both adults and kids all over Melbourne. She has run book clubs and cabarets, performed Shakespeare and written sonnets, dabbled in Dickens and is best buddies with the Brontes, and while she loves a ripping good yarn, she is still convinced *everything* we get to read and write in our lives is always a thrilling new adventure!