



G.A.T.E.WAYS

invites gifted Year 1 and 2 children

with a love of reading and writing to

'CLIMBING THE FARAWAY TREE'

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. You know, your mums and dads (and probably their mum and dads too) may have loved reading and writing as much as you do when they were your age! And maybe *their* favourite books when they were kids are still some of your favourites now! Enid Blyton wrote lots of famous stories that children of all ages have loved for years and years, so on this Journey we'll be venturing into the Enchanted Wood, flying away on the Wishing Chair and spreading joy with Mr. Pink-Whistle! Each week when we open the pages of her books, we'll be clambering up the magical boughs of the Faraway Tree to find out what extraordinary land, colourful characters and amazing adventures are in store for us, and sliding down the Slippery-slip of our imaginations to come up with our own creative responses!

Requirements:

Bring a big blank scrapbook, lots of things to write and draw with, a glue stick and scissors, and – because in Enid Blyton's stories, everyone always seems to be eating yummy food *constantly* – bring a delicious morning-tea snack for yourself (no nuts please) Also bring a small photo of yourself and a stamped, self-addressed DL envelope for your report.
If you like, read some of Enid Blyton's stories before you come to the program (optional)

Session One: The Adventure Begins!

Today is our first exploration into *The Enchanted Wood* with character writing and description – over the ditch and through the mysterious whispering trees, past the toadstool ring, and into the 'leaves' of the story! So that we don't get lost, we'll be mapping out all the marvels and inhabitants of the Faraway Tree on a creative and interactive poster, including Moon-Face, Silky and the Saucepan-Man! Our tree-rific artwork will then inspire us to write about our own experience of meeting the extraordinary inhabitants who dwell in its branches!

Session Two: The Land at the Top of the Ladder...

Climbing the Faraway Tree is always exciting, but it's the remarkable lands that you discover at the top that lead to the greatest adventures. This session we'll be reading about The Land of Ice and Snow, The Rocking Land, The Land of Take-What-you-Want and even The Land of Birthdays! The challenge is for you to invent three brand-new magical places to spin around the top-most branches: who will live in your new lands, how will they look, and what dangers or delights will we find there?!

Session Three: Flying Away Into Fun!

Mollie and Peter had no idea what they were in for when they found that strange old chair in an antique shop, but *The Adventures of the Wishing Chair* took them to all kinds of astonishing places! We'll be using today's stories to conjure up our own flights of fancy: you may not have a mysterious chair with wings, but that won't stop you designing your own unique magical object! It might look like an everyday item, but with your creative writing skills you'll soon be giving it strange and spectacular powers... Be careful what you wish for!

Session Four: Making Wishes Come True!

How we all wish we had a friend like *The Adventures of Mr. Pink-Whistle*! Sometimes things happen that don't seem fair, and wouldn't it be wonderful if a delightful little man could come into our lives and find ways to make everything better?! For our final session we'll be writing a letter to Mr. Pink-Whistle to ask for his help - but not for us! His stories are about being unselfish and kind and doing good deeds, so what wish would you like Mr. Pink-Whistle to grant today that will make someone else happy?

Homework:

After each session, adventurers on this Journey will want to take home their tree-mendous stories to finish off, and bring back to share for our literary picnic the following week!

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! Kim is currently the club leader for G.A.T.E.WAYS Tolkiens Club and the teenage books and writing club, The Inklings.