



A G.A.T.E.WAYS JOURNEY

For gifted Year 1 and 2 children with a
love of storytelling and thinking

Imogen the Imaginator

A superhero's inquisitive journey into story

G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organisation offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. This *JOURNEY* is for both boys and girls and will run over four sessions.

Imogen the Imaginator has a superpower. Her inquisitive mind can carry her beyond the pages of picture storybooks and into the land of philosophy and creative thinking. Embark on an imaginative journey with Imogen across literary lands where superheroes, dragons, princesses and animals reveal an infinite space for dreams. You'll ask many questions along the way... What is a superhero? Can dragons really be friends with princesses? What does it mean to be friends? What are the *most* super powers? Join us on this exciting Journey where each week a different picture storybook will spark inquiry and imaginative storytelling. With Imogen as your guide, you will use philosophical inquiry, role-play, observation and creative play to enrich your oral and written storytelling.

Session 1: Hello Superheroes!

What makes a superhero? Would you like to be one? Can anyone be a superhero? Can a worm or a dragon be a superhero? Join Imogen as she takes us on an imaginative literary quest to discover how a superhero is made. Together we'll explore different ways to think creatively as we ask: How we can imagine dream worlds from reality? On this leg of our Journey we will read *Willy the Dreamer* by Anthony Browne and wonder about the difference between a dream and a daydream, or a dream and a made-up story. We will also meet a different type of superhero in *Superworm* by Julia Donaldson and compare the qualities of Willy and Superworm.

Are superheroes real? Could you ever be a superhero? During this session you will start your journal in which you will reflect and record your insights about the qualities of a superhero.

Session 2: Delighting in Difference

What is it that makes us different from other people? In *Elvira* by Margaret Shannon, Elvira the dragon battles with the idea that she is different from the other dragons in her family. She loves princesses, dressing up and wearing flowers in her 'hair' ...while her siblings eat princesses and loathe dressing up! Elvira thinks that she is beautiful, but the other dragons disagree. What is beauty after all? What if what makes us different also gives us unique powers? Together, with your fellow imaginers, you will explore the observation of similarities and difference, to find paths along your journey into a superhero story. Using creative thinking tools such as association, pattern-making and exaggeration, you will develop your own superhero character and imagine what their own story could be.

Session 3: Promising Developments

Was Mother bat a superhero when she tried to rescue her baby, Stellaluna, from the clutches of a powerful bird? In *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon, the baby bat finds herself living in a bird's nest with baby birds. She soon teaches the baby birds to hang upside down like a bat. Mother bird is furious with her and makes her promise never to sleep upside down AGAIN. Have you ever made a promise? Who do you make

promises to? Are some promises more important to keep than others? How do you feel when a promise is broken? Should a person always act on a promise to someone even if they are not around? Through *Stellaluna* we will battle with the concept of 'promises' and turn our inquisitive minds to what moral conflicts superheroes might be faced with. We will gain new insights into how dramatic dilemmas are used to make stories both exciting and challenging. Using a mind-map to compare the superhero characters we have met and created on our Journey thus far, we will continue to develop our own storylines and share them through speaking, writing or play.

Session 4: Friends and Neighbours

What is friendship? Is friendship a quality that is required to be a superhero? Can a superhero have friends despite being so different? Join Imogen as she introduces us to *Here Comes the Cat* by Vladimir Vagin. Find out how two animals who are usually enemies can become friends. After reading the story, you will create your own "frenemies", or traditional enemies that become friends, and include them in your story. Along the way, you will think about what friendship is all about: Do friends need to be alike? What do you gain from being friends with someone who is completely different to you? In other words, what is friendship truly based on? On this final leg of our imaginative journey, you will use physical exploration to imagine a solution to the drama of their story, illustrate your superhero and their friend and write a poem to summarise their journey. We will conclude our own Journey with a sharing circle where you will share your insights on superhero stories with Imogen and your fellow imaginers.

Assessment and Reporting

Children will be evaluated on their participation in creative thinking activities and their efforts to develop character and a storyline. They will also be evaluated on their spoken and written output, creative responses and listening skills.

Requirements

Please bring an exercise book (at least A5 size), a well-stocked pencil case (grey lead pencils, pens, something to colour with, a ruler, scissors, eraser, sharpener and glue).

Each week bring a nut-free snack (and lunch on our full day), your hat and a drink bottle. All items should be clearly labelled with your name. **Please also provide a stamped, self-addressed DL envelope and a labelled photograph to assist with generating and sending your report at the completion of the Journey.**

Homework

Work between classes will be optional and may involve participating in a community of inquiry with the family and completing a task started in class.

About the presenter

Alison Windsor has worked as a Teaching Artist for fifteen years, creating works with a huge variety of groups first in France then Australia. Alison uses physical theatre techniques to facilitate creation and dramatic play. She stretches her own creative muscles in theatre productions and literary translation. Alison is a graduate of the Jacques Lecoq School of Theatre Creation, has a degree in Anthropology and a Masters in Translation.