

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

For gifted Year 1 and 2 children with a
love of language and writing

'Once Upon An Alphabet

.. a linguistic fantasy'



G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organization offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. This *JOURNEY* for both girls and boys will run over four mornings. There was once a G.A.T.E.WAYS program all about scintillating stories, luscious language and thrilling themes, designed especially for excited young readers and writers passionate about sharing their ideas through fiction and fun! We'll be travelling back to prehistoric times to find where written communication began, exploring strange new lands where words actually come to life, meeting mysterious aliens and defeating sneaky gremlins – and it all starts with something as simple as ABC! Get ready to grapple with grammar, work wonders with words, and descend daringly into alphabetic adventure...!

Session One: Neanderthal Knowledge and the Alphabet Mystery!

Who made up the English alphabet?! No-one really knows for sure, but Rudyard Kipling who wrote *The Jungle Book* wondered if maybe it all began with cave paintings and a little girl called Taffy! Come explore his amazing *Just So Stories* about the birth of language, as we reveal the wonder of words and the life of letters: from ABC acrobatics to language necklaces and alphabet soup games, we'll be writing, drawing, reading and creating our own stories and theories about how our amazing alphabet first came to life!

Session Two: A Way With Words Though the Land of Linguistics!

Good stories always bring language to life, but what if there was an actual place where words weren't just marks on a page but were living, breathing creatures in a real world of their own? What kind of characters live in Noun Town? What's it like to visit the Village of Verbing? Look out for the Ocean of Adjectives around the mysterious Error Island, and beware of Adverb Avalanches if you try to climb the Cliffs of Conjugations where the wild Verbs run free... Today we'll be mapping this Land of Linguistics and writing a traveller's guide for way-word tourists eager to visit vocabulary in person!

Session Three: Grammar Gremlins and the Building Blocks of Sentences!

Oh oh! A word-wide warning has just been issued – the Grammar Gremlins have invaded again! Every so often, Gremlins sneak into our stories and try to steal our meaning by setting language tricks and traps to trip up our writing! The only way to defeat their wily ways is with the mighty magic of Syntax and the mystical power of the Building Blocks of Grammar. We'll be building real walls with strong sentences to keep the Gremlins away, while confusing them with homonym riddles, pinning them down with punctuation, and defeating them with definitions!

Session Four: The Intergalactic Communication Crisis

Breaking news: the mysterious Vocables from the remote planet Lexicon have landed on Earth! Problem is... we can't communicate with them! Are they trying to take over the human race? Do they want to be our friends? Maybe they're just hungry and need pretzels? Our only clues are their attempts to use some real and fictional world alphabets to leave messages: if we can break the codes in Egyptian, Chinese or even Elvish, perhaps we can work out why the aliens are here... And if they're friendly, maybe then we can each invent a unique new language for them to use to talk with us!

Homework:

On this eloquent adventure, YOU will love finishing off any of your simulating stories or articulate activities at home, ready to share with your fellow writers 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!

Requirements: YOU will need a blank scrapbook to work in, a well-stocked pencil case, a small photo of YOU with your name on the back, and a yummy morning-tea snack just for YOU to keep your brain bouncing and your creativity flowing!