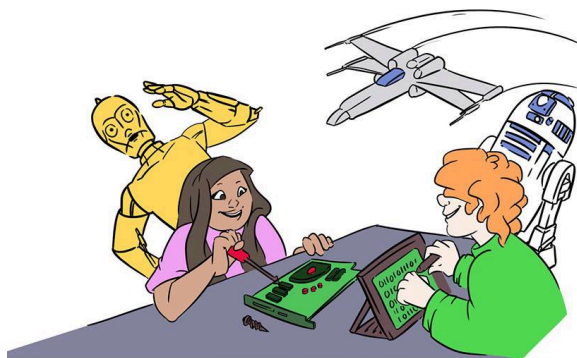


GATEWAYS JOURNEYS

G.A.T.E.WAYS invites high-ability Year 5 & 6 students with a love of language, writing, and sci-fi to ...

Star Words: A Poetic Sci-Fi Adventure



Before Luke Word-walker joined the Rebel Alliance to fight the evil empire of Bad Spellas, he had his sights set on being a poet. Join with the young apprentice wordsmith Luke as he travels the galaxy, composing uni-verses and C3P-Odes – to go where no poet has gone before. Along the way we will visit Planet Pun (home of the Poet-Trees) and the Neology Nebula (where new words are formed). We will actively avoid annihilation in the Asteroids of Alliteration, and finally find our way back to the Starship Pen-terprise for Luke's first Intergalactic Poetry Slam... always remembering; 'Metaphor-ce be with you.'

In this Journey our young wordsmiths will encounter challenges in problem solving around words and word origins, brainstorming and transferring intuitive responses into refined sets of words, how to break-down the text of a poem and how to use stylistic mimicry and parody. They will also learn ancient rhetorical skills in both the written form and performance that translate to the modern world of communication. Finally, they will discover what it takes to bring words alive on the stage through micro-acting, gesture, intent and intonation.

Requirements:

Adventurers always come prepared! Pack:

- A well-stocked pencil case with pens and pencils for writing and an exercise book.
- A snack or lunch as required (adventuring is hungry work!)

Session 1: *PUNdemonium on Planet Parody*

Our adventure starts when we join Luke as he leaves Tatooine to explore the binary planets of Pun and Parody, meeting the Poet-Trees and the Citizens of Free Verse. Using a code to engage the Star Hyper Drive, you will piece together the parts of famous space poems, like Mary Oliver's 'Stars': *How can I hope to be friends with the hard white stars?* Let's work out how as we unlock your own poetic potential! Once launched into writing, we will be drawn into the gravitational field of Planets Pun and Parody, using imitation and imagination to create our own wordy wormholes.

Session 2: *Adventures in the Neology Nebula*

Today we will meet Arty-D2 and Robbie The Robot (who robs meaning from words and words from meanings!). They are Luke's companions in translating his experiences in the Neology Nebula – where brand new words are made! We will combine the stellar gases of sound through onomatopoeia, syllabification and portmanteaus to create strange new non-sense poetry – that will have a surprising degree of common-sense! Students will design and create their own world of words, learning to translate these foreign sounds into meaningful messages. Can you out-wit Robbie the Robot?

Session 3: *Warning: Supermassive Writer's Block Approaching*

In this session Luke and his robotic companions become stranded in the Alpha-Beta System, a swirling vortex of letters. Drifting ever closer towards the blackhole of Writer's Block, they meet Yoda – Dictionary Master and Keeper of the Meta-Force. Students will explore pangrams and navigate their way out of the Alliteration Asteroid field, heading for home. And then, in a final twist, after the extremism of mega-alliteration and super-condensed pangrams – their only way out is through the thin path of subtlety and balance – can they find their way?

Session 4: *An Intergalactic Poetry Slam*

Today Luke returns to his home planet of Tatooine. Combining all the poetic skills that he has learned on his travels, he finds himself in the Cantina in the first round of an Intergalactic Poetry Slam... Can you help Luke defeat Jabba The Poet's verbose villains? The rants of Krall, the wrath of Khan? Or will the starship Pen-terprise fall to blabbering Jabba's monotone drones?!?

Homework:

Aspiring and dedicated adventurers on this Journey will definitely want to complete the extra poetry challenges, ultimately creating their own portfolio of space poems by the end of the four sessions.

About the presenter:

Cameron Semmens is an award-winning poet, entertainer, designer and poetry educator with 21 books to his name and twenty-seven years' experience sharing his passion on the stage and the page. He makes his living through words: running workshops, designing books and performing live. He lives in The Dandenong Ranges beside the foggy, ferny forests he loves, and he's a committed dad to Spencer and Mieka.

