



A G.A.T.E.WAYS JOURNEY

for curious gifted Year 1 and 2 children

with a love of science and mystery

'The Mystery of Ripple Bay'

.....Join fearless Francis and audacious Alice as they go 'under cover'

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.

The sleepy little town of Ripple Bay is nestled between forested hills and the clear, blue sea. The limestone soil of the cliffs harbours a network of caves and abandoned mines. In this peaceful atmosphere the townspeople go about their daily business: working, shopping, learning and playing. However, the serenity of this little township has recently been disrupted by strange goings on. There have been sightings of weird creatures, rumbling sounds and the unexplained flashing of lights.

What to do? The town council has called in the Ripple Bay PIB (Paranormal Investigation Branch) and asked them to put their best investigators, fearless Francis and audacious Alice, on the case. They have been instructed to go 'under cover' to see if they can discover just what is going on. Please come and join them! Each session you will explore the particular environment in which fearless Fred and audacious Alice go under cover: the night sky, subterranean caverns, the rain forest and the depths of the ocean. You will learn about its physical features and living organisms. Do you wonder how living things can survive in such dark places and harsh conditions? Are there living things in outer space? As the clues and evidence, which you collect mount up, you will put your hypotheses to the test. Along the way you'll take part in hands-on activities including experiments, demonstrations, games and puzzles and each week you will have something to take home.

Session 1 Under the Cover of Darkness

Fearless Francis and audacious Alice do some of their best investigative work under the cover of darkness, so their first step today is to stake out the night sky with its glowing moon and millions of twinkling stars. Could all the strange happenings be explained by a visit from outer space: an alien in a space craft with rumbling engines and flashing lights? Could it be quasars, comets, shooting stars or meteors burning up in earth's atmosphere or even satellites passing overhead? Or maybe there is a more mundane explanation: a nocturnal animal with glowing eyes prowling and growling on its midnight stroll? Join fearless Francis and audacious Alice under the cover of darkness and see what you can discover!

Session 2 Under the Cover of Soil

With the mystery still unsolved, fearless Francis and audacious Alice go underground, into some limestone caves. Are you ready to go with them? In their undercover disguise as spelunkers, you are guided down narrow passages into caverns adorned with cave formations. All around you can hear the sound of dripping and lapping water. Be alert!! Look up on the roof, down on the floor and into the water. What strange creatures can you see? What other sounds do you hear? Can you see some flashing lights? But wait! In the back of the cave, there is a door to a disused mine. Do you dare enter the mine? There's creaking and groaning and the sound of flapping wings. Is that an engine you hear and more flashing lights you see? Do your observations help you to come up with a theory about the Ripple Bay mystery?

Session 3 Under the Cover of the Lush, Green Canopy

Oh boy, this mystery is proving to be so confounding! This session join fearless Francis and audacious Alice as they trek into the rainforest and under its canopy. Here you'll encounter the most amazing diversity of plant and animal life. Creatures of all shapes and sizes fill the forest with flashes of colour and a cacophony of animal calls. Could this be the origin of the mysterious sights and sounds? Or could there be a more sinister explanation? Is there an illegal logging operation taking place in the heart of the forest with its rumbling machinery, loggers in thick protective clothing and flashing and beeping indicator lights? Only close observation under cover will tell. Has the mystery finally been solved?

Session 4 Under the Cover of the Deep Blue Sea

Obviously not!!! This mystery is so hard 'to crack'! As a last resort, fearless Francis and audacious Alice take their undercover surveillance into the water. So, put on your wetsuit and join them in a mini submarine as they travel to the ocean floor. As the sub sinks down through the darkness, you marvel at the bizarre creatures appearing in the beam of light from the sub. Wow! Look at those huge teeth and colourful flashing lights! Wait is that another underwater vehicle you hear? What could it be up to? Soon your time is up and you resurface to examine all the evidence you have collected. Have fearless Francis and audacious Alice finally come up with an explanation for the strange happenings at Ripple Bay? What do you think?

Homework Requirements & Assessment

Homework may be set after each session to give students extra time to explore the new concepts. At the end of the program a short, written report will be completed on each student and forwarded home to parents. A copy should be made and forwarded to the school.

What to bring: Please bring a labelled, small photograph of yourself; a snack (no nuts please), and a stamped, self-addressed DL envelope for your report. (write your name on the back.) Also bring writing materials and a notebook.

About the Presenter

Maureen Frith has a Bachelor of Arts Degree, a Diploma of Teaching and a Graduate Certificate in Gifted and Talented Education. She has taught for 45 years in both Primary and Secondary schools and has performed the role of Coordinator in Science and Technology, presenting enrichment and extension programs for students and professional development for teachers. She has helped to develop curricula, including VELS Science and Thinking Skills documents. She is an active member of the Science Teachers Association and the Science Talent Search Committee. For many years she has been a club leader for the G.A.T.E.WAYS Brainwaves Club. She encourages students to be active enquirers, develop higher order thinking skills and to share their knowledge and appreciation of the amazing universe in which we live.