



**G.A.T.E.WAYS**

invites Year 3 and 4 children with a

love of science and art to

## ***'The True Story of Mythical Beasts'***

**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 sessions. From Adaro to Zaratan, with Dragons, Griffins and Catoblepases in between, not forgetting Yetis and Yowies, the world seems full of mythical creatures. Despite our planet being chock-full of real weirdos in the animal kingdom, people seem to love believing in creatures that don't actually exist! Where did these stories come from? Could any of them be real?

Armed only with a sketch pad and pencil or two, we will leap into the world of mythical monsters, and discover that many of them are actually based on real animals, both alive and extinct. Studying ancient records and modern science, we'll find out how the myths began, then draw our discoveries to create a 'Mythical Bestiary'. Will we discover any real monsters?

**Requirements:** Please bring pencils and any other drawing materials you want (except textas), paper or sketch books (not lined note pads, something at least A4 sized), and a love of mystery and drawing! Also bring a snack (no nuts please), a stamped, self addressed, DL envelope and a small, named photograph of yourself

### **SESSION 1 MYSTERY IS OUT THERE!**

Today we will learn about myth and legend, and find out how are they different. We will discover how what is considered a religion by one civilisation, becomes 'just' myths to a later one, and why 'eye-witness' accounts are so unreliable. Then we'll look at the first of our beasts and legendary monsters, such as the armour-skinned catoblepas and flesh-tearing succarath, and discover how they could be based on real animals.

### **SESSION 2 ENTER THE DRAGON'S DEN!**

In this session, we will enter the exciting world of dragons, the most widespread of mythical beasts. Where did the stories begin, and why are eastern and western dragons so different? Why are eastern dragons 'lucky', beautiful and plumed, while European ones are more likely to roast you? Could there have been something that really existed in the past that was 'dragonish'?

### **SESSION 3 HIDING IN THE DEPTHS!**

In this session we will dive into the murky depths in search of Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster. When did the myth begin, and what evidence is there for a real creature lurking in the chilly waters? We'll also search the ocean for two mythical monsters that may actually exist, including the monstrous zaratan, as big as an island, and a lot hungrier! You might never want to go swimming again!

### **SESSION 4 HUGE, HAIRY, HORRIBLE AND HERE?**

Today, we sit down with yetis, yowies and sasquatch, the hairy wild men of legend and myth. Could they really exist? Could they be the last surviving prehistoric people? Have any modern discoveries shown that other species of humans have existed with us until quite recently? Is there a hairy beast lurking in all of us?

***By the conclusion of the Journey, the students will have produced a Portfolio of Mythology, and thought carefully about why they believe what they believe.***

### **Assessment and Reporting.**

Students will be assessed partly on their artwork, and partly on their contribution to the class discussions. The major part of the assessment will be based on their homework. Parents are asked to encourage students to complete this aspect of the Journey. A short written report will be compiled on each student and forwarded to his or her parents.

### **About the Presenter.**

Andrew Plant is a professional artist and trained zoologist. He specialises in natural history illustration, and has contributed to over 120 books. Andrew has travelled the world, seeking all things strange and mysterious, and drawing them!