



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

for gifted, creative Year 1 and 2 children

with a love of language and writing

### 'Who's Got Mail?'

**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. Drawing inspiration from the story of *The Jolly Postman and Other People's Letters*, children will enter the busy world of mail as we set up our own mail centre with personal mail folders to enable us to send and receive mail. In the original story, the postmen delivers mail to some well-known fairy tale characters and these are the links which propel the story. Which characters from our favourite books and movies will come on our Journey? Will it be Buzz and Woody, Snow White, the Saucepan Man, Captain UnderPants, Charlie and Lola, Billie B and Jack or someone unexpected? We'll have lots of fun as we develop skills in creative writing, write letters and address envelopes, design mail folders and illustrate our stories. Children will create lots of mail to deliver such as postcards, invitations, books, notes, posters and advertising material, and produce their own mini-book that will bring the work that they have completed throughout the journey together in one imaginary story.

**Requirements:** Bring a named copy of the book to each session, a writing notebook and a well-stocked pencil case with grey Lead pencils, sharpener, eraser, colour pencils, scissors and glue; a small photo of yourself and a snack – no nuts please. Also bring a stamped, self-addressed DL envelope for your report. A folder to keep items together will be provided. Prior to attending students must read: *The Jolly Postman and Other People's Letters* by A & J Ahlberg

#### Session One – The Jolly Postman

Together we begin by exploring the world of the Jolly Postman as we discover which fairy-tale characters receive mail and how this helps to tell the story. Which character from *The Three Bears* receives a card, who does the Jolly Postman deliver a postcard to and who is it from, what is in the secret message to Red Riding Hood, and who is having a Birthday party? How do we categorise the different types of letters that the Jolly Postman delivers and what types of letters do your family receive?

We'll have fun writing our first postcards that will become the start of our imaginary story. We'll set up our own Postal Desk and individual post folders that will allow us to send and receive our mail. I wonder who will post the first letter?

#### Session Two – What is in that letter?

What makes a good letter and a well-addressed envelope? After we determine that we'll have lots of practice reviewing serious and silly letters to see if they fit our model! We'll categorise and record our findings using a graph or table. Hearts will be touched as we hear the folk tale of the 'Warm Fuzzies (that put honey in our hearts and bring us together) and Cold Pricklies' (that make us cold and create distrust between us). Using this idea we'll write and mail notes to others in our group and then use our drawing skills to make miniature books of this lovely tale. We'll transform the common fairy-tale characters found in *The Jolly Postman* into new personalities and create an invitation to a birthday party for one of these transformed characters which we'll post on the way out the door.

#### Session Three - Story Telling with Mail

Today we'll determine how Janet and Allan Ahlberg were able to carry the story thread from letter to letter. Then, with support, we'll each create an original story board to guide our story writing. Each story will link a series of mail items previously created (including a postcard, note and mini booklet) to tell their own story. As a group we will decide on some characters that will feature in these individual stories. If you have ever wanted to ask a fairy-tale or other character a question then this is your chance. You'll write a friendly letter to two of your chosen characters. What will their replies tell us as reply letters drop into individual postal folders and become another part of individual stories!

#### Session Four – Who's got Mail?

Our final task will be to deliver our mail from our Postal Desk to each one of us. There are sure to be lots of surprises for all! The final session of the journey will provide students the opportunity to complete work on their story book. Many of these will be shared with the whole class and I am sure we will be amazed as each envelope is opened to reveal an exciting story.

#### Homework and Assessment:

After each session children will be given writing tasks to develop their creative writing skills. It is expected that these tasks are completed by the next session.

#### About the Presenter:

Annette Subhani has been involved in education for the past two decades. A person of varied life experience with a passion and desire to contribute to the character development of children from an early age, as she believes this helps to build a community of motivated, responsible and caring individuals. Central to building this capacity she believes is engaging children in meaningful learning that relates to 'real' life and engages students in cooperative action and the use of higher level thinking skills. Drawing on literature, the arts and sciences, inspirational writings and broad approaches she challenges children to relate insights and learning from across the curriculum to assist them in contributing to an ever evolving global community.