

A G.A.T.E.WAYS JOURNEY

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

'Words Have Wings

..That Awake Our Daydreams!'



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.

Are you a creative thinker? Do you love to play with words? Do you enjoy having fun and playing games? Do you love to write? Your vivid imagination and love of words is the perfect recipe for becoming a successful poet! During this Journey, let's giggle our way through some nonsense poems and have fun performing poetry. You'll meet some weird and wonderful animals, "*Beware the Jabberwock, my son! The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!*" You'll have a ball with rhyme and rhythm and be inspired to find your own creative voice. What do you daydream about? What do you imagine? Let's use our wealth of creativity to describe our lives in new and interesting ways- our dreams, family celebrations and our 'home sweet homes'. Enjoy your poetic journey!

Session 1: It's all about me!

*"My outside self is different,
From the inside self of me
Nothing about them are the same,
As you soon will surely see!" (M. Muroski)*

How would you describe yourself on the inside? On the outside? What makes you happy? What do you dream about? In our first session you will create your own *Inside Outside* poem. We'll include similes to enhance imagery in our writing and use some juicy, tempting words to engage our readers. We'll enjoy *A Poem for Two Voices* and compose one of our own. You will also have a barrel of laughs role-playing some humorous poetry and composing your own poetry scripts. Have you ever had a bad hair day? Or thought about torturing your teacher? Do your parents yell at you to turn the TV off? Let's uncover our hidden stash of creativity, extend our vocabularies and share our talent through performance.

*I looked in the mirror with shock and with dread
To discover two antlers had sprung from my head. (Linda Knaus)*

Session 2: What absolute nonsense!

*"On the Ning Nang Nong
Where the Cows go Bong!
And the monkeys all say BOO!" (Spike Milligan)*

Has anybody ever told you that you were letting your imagination run away with you and that you were talking nonsense? Let's enjoy a bit of nonsense as we examine some crazy poems by Lewis Carrol and Spike Milligan. In *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Alice is faced with a lot of weird, wonderful and sometimes alarming people and animals. In 'Through the Looking Glass', Humpty Dumpty believes he can "explain all the poems that were ever invented". How believable is Humpty Dumpty's translation of the *Jabberwocky poem* and how does it compare to Graeme Base's illustrated interpretation? What do you think the crazy words mean? Let's create our own glossary and invent our own unique verse and illustration. Lots of laughter and creativity guaranteed as we have fun with our imaginations language! How many extraordinary words can you remember or make up? What about thingummyjig, or clamjamf? As we all know, "***A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men***" (Roald Dahl)

Session 3: There's No Place Like Home

Where do you live? Does your house "*cling with iron claws to cliff ledges?*" Or does it "*nestle into slippers on mossy slopes?*" These are not usually actions that we would expect from a house are they? How would you describe your house? Join us as we discuss the images portrayed in the Wendy Michael's lyric poem and focus on some action verbs and marvellous metaphors to describe our own houses. Let's make them come alive!

What social events do you celebrate in your house? Birthdays? Family barbeques? Can you describe any funny incidents? Discover some new and wonderful words as you interpret Colin Thiele's *The Barbeque*, with its rhyming quatrains and humorous detail. Perhaps you have a dog like the sausage-snatching Bumblefoot? I wonder if he really *did* knock over the table deliberately? Be imaginative and innovative as you pretend you are a movie director interpreting the images and storyboarding the poem!

** Poetry recital- Homework for Session 4: Bring in and recite a poem of own choice. Explain *why* you chose particular poem, *how* it affects you, *what* you enjoyed, and what the message/meaning of poem is.

Session 4: Words With Wings

In this session we meet Gabby, named after the angel Gabriel. She is a daydreamer, and words fire her imagination, creating new worlds for her to inhabit. When Gabby moves schools, her daydreams become increasingly vivid. For her,

*“Some words
Sit still on the page
Holding a story steady.
Those words
Never get me into trouble.
But other words have wings
That wake my daydreams...”
(Nikki Grimes)*

Do you love to daydream? Join Gabby and ‘buckle up for the ride’ as her thoughts and emotions take flight into new worlds of her imagination. Why are words so powerful? How can you make your words have wings? As Gabby conveys through her verse, emotions are tricky. Sometimes they’re clear and brilliant, but sometimes they’re complicated and conflicting. How can you use rhythm, alliteration and rhyme to express how you feel? How can you use imagery: similes and metaphors to illustrate your emotions? As our Journey comes to an end, let’s uncover your hidden stash of creativity and inspire your poetry writing to express yourself. Join us in some fun drama and movement activities along the way!

Poetry is an echo, asking a shadow to dance. Carl Sandburg

** Please wear comfortable clothing this session

What to bring

- Bring a well-stocked pencil case , an A4 exercise book, a snack (no nuts please) each week; a hat during Term 1 /4; a stamped self-addressed DL envelope for your report and a small photo of yourself with your name on the back.
- Bring a dictionary for Session 3.
- Students are encouraged to bring along favourite poems from home to share during the Poetry Journey.

About the Presenter

Terri O’Donnell is a primary school teacher who has a strong interest in current thinking trends, particularly Visible Thinking strategies. She has encouraged a love of learning and a spirit of inquiry with her students over the past 17 years. Terri also has a passion for the Performing Arts and has enjoyed the planning, choreography and coordination of whole school musicals and drama performances.