

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

For gifted Year 3 and 4 children with a

love of reading and writing

**'WORDS, WONDER AND WILD WANDERINGS**

**WITH THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH'**

**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.

Imagine finding a surprise package in your room one day. And inside that package is a magical portal to the Lands Beyond: a world that surpasses your imagination where words and wit and numbers and nonsense are busy coming to life! This is just what happens to a schoolboy called Milo in Norton Juster's modern fantasy classic *The Phantom Tollbooth*, and before you know it, he is searching for lost princesses, outrunning ogres, exploring the amazing city of Dictionopolis, trying to escape the land of Expectations or the wastelands of the Doldrums, leaping to the island of Conclusions, and finally finding the mystical Castle in the Air!

Want to come with him? No problem! There's a surprise package right here, waiting for you to open, and inside is a mysterious map (just like Milo's) and a very useful 'magical' item you'll need so that you can write yourself INTO the story with Milo! So as we go questing through *The Phantom Tollbooth*, you'll be writing and creating your OWN personal version of the adventure - right alongside the famous novel!

### **Session One: Crossing the Threshold – The Magic Begins!**

Quick! Open your surprise package and check your map! Beyond the mystical portal of the Tollbooth, Milo's first stop with us will be in the strange Land of Expectations... What do YOU expect is going to happen today? What will this unusual program, this surprising story, and the world we're about to enter be like? You can bet we'll definitely be going beyond Expectations, as we write ourselves as characters into this adventure, meet Milo in person on the page for the first time, and invent our own unique ways of getting into the magical realm...!

### **Session Two: The Word Market - Watchdogs, Spelling Bees and Humbugs!**

Juicy, tempting words for sale! Would you like to buy a vowel, or a nice ripe adjective? We've reached the mighty city of Dictionopolis, and along the way we've encountered some very unusual creatures like Tock the time-keeping Watchdog, the feisty Spelling Bee, and the self-important Humbug! This is 'word play', so we'll each be inventing a brand-new character with a 'punny' name - but we'll need to buy purchase some important letters and language from Dictionopolis' Word Market to help us! Prepare for a busy shopping spree in the marketplace as we play with and on words – literally!

### **Session Three: Dr. Dischord and the Silent Treatment**

Shh! Do you hear that? Milo is about to meet Chroma and his magical orchestra that plays colour into the world, and then run into Dr Dischord who loves noise and The Sound Keeper who demands silence! The new chapter of our own adventurous stories today will be full of daring dialogue and dramatic description as we fill our pages and the air with music, colour, sound - and a little hush. Will our biggest challenge be trying to write when it's noisy – or 'talk' in utter silence...?!

### **Session Four: Rescuing Rhyme and Reason**

We've reached the height of our tale by climbing to the Castle in the Air - but instead of restoring the lost Princesses Rhyme and Reason to the Lands Beyond, we're going to find something very different lurking or languishing on the clouds of imagination! In fact we'll each be creating a brand-new place on our maps today that will spark off the closing chapter of our stories.... What will the climax of your magical narrative be, and when you've written yourself back to the real world after our fabulous adventuring, what will you and Milo discover that you've learnt along the way about language, learning and literature...?

### Requirements:

1. Please bring a NEW exercise book, a well-stocked pencil-case and a yummy snack (no nuts please).
2. Please read *The Phantom Tollbooth* before you come, and if you could bring a copy of the book to our sessions, that would be great!
3. Also – very important! - bring a small named photo of yourself and a stamped, self-addressed DL envelope (for return of your report) to Session 1.

### Homework:

Creative and committed travelers on this Journey will enjoy finishing off any of their new chapters, character designs, descriptive writings, text responses, illustrations, and reflective pieces at home to bring along and share the following session!

### About the Presenter

Kim Edwards teaches English literature and creative writing to university and high school students, and drama and theatre skills to both adults and kids all over Melbourne. She has run book clubs and cabarets, performed Shakespeare and written sonnets, dabbled in Dickens and is best buddies with the Brontes, and while she loves a ripping good yarn, she is still convinced *everything* we get to read and write in our lives is always a thrilling new adventure! Kim is currently the club leader for G.A.T.E.WAYS *Tolkiens* Club and a new writers' club for Years 7-9, *The Inklings*.

