



## 'ARE YOU THE CHOSEN ONE?'

At Writers Victoria, Level 3, The Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

**G.A.T.E.WAYS** is an independent organisation offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children.

Are you the chosen one? Well, are you? If so, pack your bags and get ready to set off on a heroic adventure!

*'When a great evil has awoken  
And the world is set to fall  
All hope will be lost and broken  
But the child will save us all!'* Ancient prophesy

An evil witch rises, hellbent on revenge. A magical curse causes children to be abducted from their beds in the dark of night. Monstrous creatures from another dimension attack a peaceful kingdom. Whatever the threat, the world needs a hero ... and that hero is YOU! The ancient prophesy has predicted that you will save us, so you'd better get cracking! Over two action-packed days you will learn what it takes to be the Chosen One, the hero who is destined to save the day. You will discover: why you have been chosen, and which strengths and weakness will prepare (or hinder) you for the battle ahead; what challenges you will face (Lovesick dragons? Thieving fairies? Tricky riddles? Friends who betray you?); who you are fighting against—who is the Voldemort to your Harry Potter?

Using a mix of visual stimulus, theatre games, mind-mapping, stream-of-consciousness and other activities, you will craft an epic adventure story using the key plot points from Joseph Campbell's 'The Hero's Journey'. You will learn to ensure all your plot points are connected, unfolding in an avalanche of 'cause and effect'. And you will make sure to draw tension and antagonism from internal as well as external sources. Most importantly, you will discover how to create plot from character and character from plot.

**Bring Along:** snacks for morning tea and lunch (no nuts or nut-based products please), a water bottle, pens and pencils, and an exercise book or loose-leaf writing paper.

**Before you come along-** Read at least one of the suggested texts below:

*Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan  
*Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia  
*The Lives of Christopher Chant* by Diana Wynne Jones  
*The Merlin Conspiracy* by Diana Wynne Jones  
*Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman  
*The Forests of Silence* by Emily Rodda

You might also like to bring along a 'show and tell' book you have read and loved that has a Chosen One character in it—just make sure it's not a novel mentioned above and be prepared to share the ONE thing you enjoyed most about it.

### Day One: Hands Up if You're the Chosen One!

- Today the adventure begins! But before you can set off on your perilous journey, you need to work out what sort of character you are and why you have been chosen. What are your special skills? What weaknesses will make you vulnerable to wily villains? Do you have a tragic past and what hopes do you have for your future?
- You will also need to uncover who you are up against. Every great hero needs an **antagonist**—Who will be the ultimate evil in your story? Will it be a dark wizard? A monster? A curse? Vengeful Gods? Something else?

- The next step is to have fun with world-building and define your story's **ordinary world**—What does this world look like? Who lives there and how do they live?
- Time for the story to begin and it all starts with the **call to action**—What terrible curse is awakened? Which dark lord rises? What prophesy has come true?
- At first you **refuse the call to action**—Why? Because you don't want to leave your friends and family? Is something dark and dangerous keeping you from leaving your home? —but you cannot deny it for long because you are, after all, the Chosen One!
- With a magical **mentor** by your side, you will **cross the threshold** into a strange and unfamiliar world—How is this world different to the ordinary world? What dangers await you in this new land?
- Now begins the **road of trials**—Who will be your allies and who will be your enemies? What tests will you face and how will you overcome them? What will you learn about yourself, your strengths and weaknesses?

**Homework:** Now that you have plotted a large chunk of your story, it's time to begin writing. You should have written at least three quarters your story (up to and including **the road of trials**) before we meet for day two. You will also need to choose your favourite paragraph (around 80 words) that you have written to share with the group.

### Day Two: Are We There Yet?

- After discussing how the writing of your epic adventure has been going, as well as sharing your favourite paragraphs, the story continues ...
- At the end of the road of trials you come up against your greatest **ordeal**, the toughest challenge of all as your story reaches its climax. Will you come face-to-face with the dark lord, the dragon, the cause of the curse? How will you succeed in overcoming the ordeal?
- But overcome it you will (you are the Chosen One for a reason!) and your success will earn you a **reward**. Gold? A magical sword? Powers beyond your wildest imagination?
- In taking your reward home on **the road back**, you will face one more trial—Is there a lingering curse? Did one of your enemies escape and are they trying one last time to defeat you? Is your reward as dangerous as it is wonderful?
- With your final trial overcome you will **return to the ordinary world**—How have you changed? What wisdom have you gained? Will the ordinary world return to normal or is it changed forever?
- Finally, you will have time to work on writing the rest of your story. A very helpful fairy godmother (me!) will be wandering around the room, ready to give advice and feedback as needed.

### About the presenter:

Shivaun Plozza is a former teacher and the award-winning Children's and YA writer of *Frankie* and *Tin Heart*. Her writing has been shortlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year, the Inky Awards, YALSA's Top Ten Best Young Adult Books of the Year, Highly Commended at the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, and *Frankie* won the YA category of the Davitt Awards. Her short story 'The Point' is part of *Where the Shoreline Used to Be*, an anthology of YA fiction, and recently her footy-themed children's story 'The Challenge' was part of *Speccy-tacular: AFL Stories*. Her next book is the middle-grade fantasy *The Boy, the Wolf and the Stars* and is, unsurprisingly, a Chosen One story. When she's not writing or teaching creative writing to adults and kids around the country, she is usually found playing tennis (badly), petting her cat (fondly) or with her nose stuck in a good book.