



# THE BRAINWAVES CLUB



## Semester 1: The Apprentices – Grades 2 and 3

### The Story of Writing

Can you really judge a book by its cover? Not sure? Well, Apprentices it's time to find out! Are you ready to take on the challenge of discovering the 'story of writing'? If you're the curious type who loves a good book, then it's time to sharpen your best pencils and come up with your most creative thoughts as you join me on the journey. We will discover the tricks and techniques behind writing of all different genres, in our search for the *whole* story. Delight in discovering the depth of thinking behind our favourite texts, and climb to new heights with words that go missing and foxes that bite! We'll question the motives of some famous writers and dine with ogres - there's mischief afoot! But don't be fooled! There is hard work involved too as we document techniques, explore ideas and problem solve in the quest to become the best of the best. If this sounds like fun, then give it a go. All it takes is a mind that's prepared to grow!

#### Meeting One: The Tree of Knowledge

(Focus: planning and creating original short stories)

Welcome to the world of stories and fun. This session is about planting a seed and watching it grow. Now I know what you're thinking, but it's not that kind of seed! Our seed is an idea that turns into a tree. Not a tree with leaves or flowers or bugs but one that sprouts concepts and amazing twists, then allows them to flourish into stories of treasure and monsters and mugs. Intrigued yet? We start with a simple cube that holds just one idea, then learn how to plan and grown that concept into a wonderful short story for all to hear. With the aid of some tools such as 'a knowledge tree' and Tony Ryan's 'Thinkers Keys', Apprentices will create marvellous, original short stories to share.

#### Meeting Two: Fantastic Fiction

(Focus: philosophy, writing and rhyme)

Text focus: *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl

Now surely everyone has heard of Roald Dahl. But did you know that English is not his native language? Or that he was in fact a real life spy! He grew up living next door to a huge chocolate factory (remind you of anyone?) But how did this very complex person become one of the world's most famous writers? It's time to find out. After investigating Roald Dahl and his life, we will explore how he created the amazing books we have all come to know and love. Then focussing in particular on the sly 'Fantastic Mr Fox', we will discover the formula that makes his characters so successful. Then we'll take a leaf out of his book and create our very own rhymes to rival the infamous 'Boggis, Bunce and Beans'. Are you ready to roar with laughter? Put on your best listening ears and come and explore!

#### Meeting Three: The 'Word Bank'

(Focus: reading, words and problem solving)

The 'Word Bank' has been burgled, but the thief has left a trail. We must follow that trail and go on a quest to get back all the missing words that have been stolen. Only when we find the words can the correctly spelt code word be retrieved and the 'Word Bank' be re-opened. Detective Sergeant, Theo Saurus needs your help to solve the clues. Come prepared for this session as we test our comprehension, spelling and creative problem solving in order to discover the value words can hold for an author who frequently visits the *word bank*.

#### Meeting Four: Funky Fairy Tales

(Focus: philosophical questioning and satire in writing)

Multimedia Focus: *Shrek* (original)

What makes a fairy tale a fairy tale? And who decided to call these literary treasures a "fairy tale" to begin with? After brainstorming our prior knowledge of what makes a 'fairy tale' and what typical character we would find in a fairy tale, we will examine one particular character whose sole purpose is to mock the very fairy tales that we have all grown up with.... Introducing... Shrek and his not so merry band of, um....animals? It's into the land of ogres and donkeys, silly princesses and 'drive thru' potions stores as we explore how fairy tales can be 'sent up'. This mixed media session will allow us to explore the four most important techniques of satire: exaggeration, incongruity, reversal, and parody, setting us in good stead to pen a very 'funky fairy tale' of our own.

## Meeting Five and Six: Day Dreaming

(Focus: philosophy, creative writing and/ or role play)

Text Focus: *The Dream Keeper* by Robert Inkpen

Every now and again a book comes along that is so special that you just have to take your time and savour every last word. The Dream Keeper is one such book, so we will have two meetings worth of wonder! I can't wait to introduce you to it. This story is so wonderful in so many different ways- it combines literary brilliance with philosophical thought and even throws in some very spectacular, thought provoking illustrations. In these meetings we will explore Inkpen's love of contestable concepts. We will think about the meaning behind his "mystery markings" and test the beliefs behind "Belief syrup". In our second session we will focus more on creating our very own 'Dream Keeper' before writing a letter of reply to the author of the book, 'Grandpa'.

## Meeting Seven: A Picture Paints a Thousand Words

(Focus: creative and logical problem solving, language)

A change in pace is just what the doctor ordered! But there are no boring bits here! And whilst our session might sound like all fun and games, these games will also teach. The power of a single image or letter should never be underestimated. For a single image can represent the exact same concept in every country worldwide. Using an 'eliminations web' for logical problem solving and a 'pictorial ideas chart' to spark our creative thinking, we will explore images and symbols that are used worldwide. We will then take our discoveries one step further. With a little small group brainstorming and structured thinking, we will design our very own language of symbols. Our clever and create ideas might just go worldwide themselves one day!

## Meeting Eight: The real story

(Focus: non-fiction writing)

Text Focus: *Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman* by Alan Schroeder and Jerry Pinkney

Our final meeting covers the more serious side of writing. Many authors use writing as a way of telling others about their own lives and the lives of others. Today we will explore a story about a young girl's struggle for survival. 'Minty' by Alan Schroeder and Jerry Pinkney is the perfect introduction to biographical writing and non-fiction texts for our young Apprentices. The story of Harriet Tubman (Minty) exemplifies how a successful biographical story should be written. During our meeting we will discuss how to write a non-fiction piece and answer questions such as "When does it stop being non-fiction?" We will go on to look at the different types of factual writing, examining the difference between essays, diaries, documentaries, scientific papers, photographs, biographies, textbooks and technical documentation. To finish up our semester by writing a non-fiction account of our own, in our own individual format.

### What to bring:

Please bring a spiral bound A4 lined notebook and a well-stocked pencil case (pencils; pens; glue stick; scissors; coloured pencils; eraser and a water bottle.

### About the club leader:

**Adele Costello** graduated with Honours from Deakin University with a double degree in Education and Arts. Her involvement over the past fifteen years with Programs such as G.A.T.E ways has allowed her to develop a sound base in the application of Thinking Skills and Gifted Education in schools. Working with both primary and secondary students Adele has a passion for watching gifted students make new and exciting discoveries.

