

Thematic overview and selection criteria

FOCUS: LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Rewriting Reality

Writers do more than describe a reality. They select, shape, rearrange and sometimes even completely reinvent it. Through shifting perspectives, transformed settings, fractured timelines and imagined worlds, students will explore how language can change the way a reality is represented, experienced and understood. Change the words, change the viewpoint… and an entirely different world may emerge. What happens when you read it another way.

Think Beyond: Interpret — Question — Create

Program outcomes

In this program, students will develop and extend their writing and expressive skills. Through the *Transcending Timeless Tales* workshops, students will:

- Be exposed to notable authors and their works to scaffold and inspire their own creative writing and written expression.
- Learn literary techniques, formats, and structures; broadening their ability to shape their expression and personal voice.
- Develop creative thinking skills when approaching content (e.g., character, setting, conflict, etc.) and construction (e.g., form, metre, cadence, etc.).
- Be encouraged to extend their reading and writing choices to enrich their practical and conceptual understandings.

Top 20 prompts for student selection considerations

To assist you (the teacher) in nominating students for this program, we have compiled a series of 20 prompts that may help hone your judgement as to student suitability. Although these prompts are helpful, please remember they are only a guide.

Student selection can be informed by different means, from formal testing and professional reports, through to anecdotal records or observed behaviours.

As this program has been specifically developed for high potential and gifted children, as well as those with a very keen interest and ability in language and literature, the students you select should demonstrate some (but not all) of the following characteristics. It is important to consider that these characteristics may not necessarily be reflected in a student's achievement and performance at school.

A student who is suitable for this program may:

- Possess advanced reasoning and expressive skills.
- Demonstrate ability and interest in dealing with abstraction, identifying relationships and patterns, drawing connections between concepts, generalising from facts, organising and ordering of information, and inferring meaning.
- Demonstrate intellectual curiosity, especially structure and content of stories and character complexity.
- Demonstrate tolerance for ambiguity.
- Be attracted to depth of content rather than amount of content covered.
- Learn easily, readily and/or rapidly and complete classwork quickly.
- Have a well-developed vocabulary and/or memory.
- Demonstrate an active and expressive imagination.
- Be emotionally intense.
- Maintain a strong sense of justice.
- Demonstrate fluency of ideas, original/divergent thinking, and intellectual risk taking.
- Be inclined towards artistic expression (plays an instrument, paints, cartoons, sketches, etc.).
- Enjoy creating and critiquing art and/or composing pieces of writing utilising cohesive themes and/or ideas.
- Exhibit keen and/or advanced interpersonal skills.
- Often use original descriptive and adjectival phrases.
- Be able to maintain audience interest through use of oratory techniques (pace, expression, emphasis, etc.).
- Demonstrate alertness, be highly motivated and respond quickly to new ideas.
- Have reading interests across a broad range of topics.
- Demonstrate superior Literacy knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Enjoy writing and/or reads voraciously