

The BRAINWAVES Club

Term 2 2021: Tolkiens – Years 5 and 6

Venue: Bondi Public School

Term Fee: \$285.00

THE WORLD IS A LITERARY OYSTER

Are you familiar with this famous quote from Picasso: “Good artists copy; great artists steal”? Good ol’ Pablo didn’t actually mean great artists should STEAL anything of course! What he really meant was for artists to get as much inspiration as possible from others to create a unique work. Would this idea also work for writers? Only one way to find out: go around the world and “steal” the best writing ideas from the best writers in the world! From Tanzania to Britain, from the USA to Japan, from France to Palestine, there are plenty to choose from. Our aim when we get back? Create the BEST Australian story, of course!

1 May

Meeting 5: Groundling, Wonderling and other words ending in “ing.”

Focus: Adventure, hybrid creatures

Do you know what a groundling is? Have you heard of the Home for Wayward and Misbegotten Creatures? Don’t worry if you haven’t! Mira Bartok’s book *The Wonderling* has only been out since September 2017, but it’s already taken the world by storm. Why? Well, first the adventure plot is very exciting. Most importantly though, the main protagonists are more than unusual: part-human, part-animal. Yes, that’s right! Now if that doesn’t trigger our imagination to create our own hybrid heroes, I don’t know what will...

Please read: *The Wonderling by Mira Bartok, available at Berkelouw Books or online via Booktopia.*

15 May

Meeting 6: Mangas and co.

Focus: Comics and Sci-Fi fiction

Want to know how to convey a powerful message while creating an epic space adventure with funky drawings and a good sense of humour? Look no more! Japanese mangaka Lun Lun Yamamoto has done it for you. Don’t worry if you can’t draw: studying and adapting her story-telling techniques is way worth the stopover in the Land of the Rising Sun. But don’t fall into the trap many artists before us have fallen into! Japanese artists are so creative it takes talent to be inspired by them without copying them....

Please read: *Swans in Space by Lun Lun Yamamoto. Available online via Booktopia.*

29 May

Meeting 7: Do you remember when?

Focus: Childhood stories and public speaking

Writing about your childhood memories is a tricky exercise. One is either too young to have memories or too old to remember them! But sometimes, someone like French writer René Goscinny is up for the challenge, and writes the most enchanting stories inspired by his own childhood. Someone even younger, like American writer Adora Svirak, wrote about her own childhood while STILL a child! Surely, we can learn a thing or two from these great writers. Why not get even more inspiration from Adora Svirak, who is also a great public speaker, and tell our childhood stories in public and check if they resonate with the audience?

Please read: *Nicholas by René Goscinny, illustrated by Sempé. Available online via Booktopia.*

You can also watch a TED talk given by Adora Svirak on YouTube [here](#).

19 June

Meeting 8: Fair Dinkum!

Focus: Australian literature

Our tour around the world has come to an end. Time to go back home and create the literary world of tomorrow! After sharing our favourite Australian stories, equipped with tricks and ideas collected from every part of the planet, we are now ready to write the ultimate Australian stories for the next generation to enjoy! But there are still some questions to answer: is there a specific Australian style of writing? What is the difference between a writer from Sydney and one from Darwin for example? Is there one common Australian identity when it comes to literature? Is there anything to “steal”? After studying various Australian literary styles (fiction, essays, bush poetry) and discussing the evolution of Australian vernacular, the next generation of Australian writers will surely be ready to take over!

Please bring: your favourite book written by an Australian writer.

What to bring:

Please bring a notebook and a well-stocked pencil case to each meeting as well as a hat, drink and snack for the break (no nuts please). Please be sure to complete the meeting preparation each fortnight.

About the Club Leader: Anna Jahjah

Anna has a Master’s Degree in British and American Literature and Civilisation and a Bachelor in Arabic Literature and Civilisation from Aix-en-Provence University, in France. She has taught storytelling and creative writing techniques to French children for over 8 years but one day realised that her heart belonged to Sydney! 20 thousand kilometres and 24 hours later she found herself giving writing and drama workshops to Australian children and has never looked back.