



**2021 Term 1: Tolkiens
Years 5 and 6**

Venue: Canberra Girls Grammar School, Grey Street DEAKIN

Writing the Wrongs

Meeting 2 OPENING LINES AND TITLES

You have one tweet to win me over, GO!

In a society where tweets are some of the most commonly read texts in the world, you need to grab your audience immediately. If Shakespeare started Romeo + Juliet with “Once upon a time, there was...” we’d probably be snoring within nanoseconds. By rating, analysing, and plain old trying, we are going to craft some of the best opening lines that literature has ever read and see if we can get some [in class] retweets by using some symbolism and figurative language to spice things up.

REQUIRED READING

Read ‘The Mysteries of Harris Burdick’ by Chris Van Allsburg and pick out which ‘story’ you like the best and why.

Meeting 3 CHARACTERS

Someone to fall in love with or someone to hunt for eternity?

Great stories require great characters, and there’s no Kung Fu Panda without Po, no Star Wars without Luke Skywalker, and no Matilda without, well, you get the idea. Through experimentation, stretching our imaginations and creating the puzzle pieces, we are going to ‘construct’ princesses to save the multiverse, and heroes who might just be doomed to failure. And then we’ll get to make villains who are more evil than the Ice King, Sauron, and Rodrick Heffley combined. Because great characters don’t just happen by accident and we are going to learn from the best how to make the ultimate story cast. We might even get to design their action figure boxes.

REQUIRED READING

Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events Book the First: The Bad Beginning – you can access the first chapter here <http://www.harpercollins.com/web-sampler/9780064407663>

Meeting 4

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

Ideas are precious jewels, and we're about to get rich!

When asked where he gets his ideas from Stephen King said "I have the heart of a small boy... And I keep it in a jar on my desk." What does he mean? Perhaps he means that a good writer needs the wild, unfettered imagination of childhood or a preparedness to be fearless without appreciating the consequences. Today we are going to discover other ways of unearthing ideas, recognising them, and polishing them up. We will create the most epic mash ups, the most outrageous journeys, and discover what would happen if you crossed The Uncanny X-Men with Lord of the Rings [hint: you'd get Harry Potter!].

REQUIRED READING

Bring along a favourite novels/short stories/picture books/comic books and be prepared to discuss the ideas contained within them.

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).

About the club leader: Ryan Lindsay

Ryan is a primary school teacher by day and a writer by night. He has a Bachelor of Education (Primary) from UNE Armidale. Ryan gained the trust of publishers after writing at least 10,000 pages of pretty bad early work. Up to date he has had comics and graphic novels published as well as prose and literary analysis. He encourages you to start writing early, get those terrible words out quickly, and then spend more of your life being a good writer working towards greatness.