



2021 Term 2: Tolkiens

Years 5 and 6

Venue: Canberra Girls Grammar School, Grey Street DEAKIN

Writing the Wrongs

Meeting 5

REVIEWS

Note from the editor: Have your copy print-ready by 9pm!

What makes for a great review? Expert book reviewers cleverly intertwine plot information (without giving away plot twists or any spoilers) and their personal opinions of the book to produce a clear, informative, and concise piece of writing. In this meeting we will explore the art of the review and find interesting and meaningful ways to write an opinion piece. Through analysis of reviews and texts, we'll distil lessons about what we should or shouldn't do in our own writing; we'll also devise a series of questions we would ask an author about their work and process.

REQUIRED READING

Find 2 great reviews in a newspaper/magazine/online - one should be of something you really liked and one about something you didn't like.

Also read Roald Dahl's 'Royal Jelly' short story – you can access a PDF here

https://englishinwonderland.wikispaces.com/file/view/27_Royal_Jelly_by_JRoald_Dahl.pdf

Meeting 6

UNDERSTANDING, EDITING AND REWRITING

*Kill your darlings**

There are five stages of grief when you receive feedback on your writing: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. We are going to consider how receiving feedback makes us feel, and then how to use it to make our writing even better. We will take a piece of published text, make notes on it and then edit/rewrite it to make it significantly better, and explicitly state what aspect of the piece we are aiming to improve on (for e.g. dialogue, description, theme, etc). Finally, we will write one-page stories, anonymously share them, and make notes for suggested improvements. Once the stories are returned to their writers, we'll discuss the process and then prove it right with a re-write.

REQUIRED READING

Opening to A Princess of Mars by Edgar Rice Burroughs, of which you can access a PDF here

<http://www.sandroid.org/GutenMark/wasftp.GutenMark/MarkedTexts/pmars11.pdf>

* **“Kill your darlings”** is a common piece of advice given by experienced writers. You **kill your darlings** when you decide to get rid of an unnecessary storyline, character, or sentences in a piece of creative writing—elements you may have worked hard to create but that must be removed for the sake of your overall story.

Meeting 7

REWRITING

From four colour funny to perfect prose piece.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words so let's test the theory by turning some pictures into words. From a comic book page prompt, you are going to build your own characters, world, and story. Through masterful word choices and application of theme and tone you will build a unique world from this shared prompt.

REQUIRED READING

Bring along any comic books you like and select a page with great vivid imagery and be prepared to talk about the word choices and emotions it evokes. You can easily find a wide selection for free borrowing at your local library, or if you access www.comixology.com you will find many that are available to read for free.

Meeting 8

STRANDED!

We all know that the triangle is the strongest shape, but which elements make for the strongest story structure? Today's meeting will begin with a fun game of buying and selling story elements. Then each of us will write the start of a story set on the same desert island, but with different characters, themes, and plots. As a group, we will map out how it could all tie together and then individually we will write a version of the final chapter.

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.