

The BRAINWAVES Club

Term 1 2021: Imagineers – Year 3 and 4

Venue: North Curl Curl Public School

Term Fee: \$285.00

RARE BIRDS & ODD FISH – A STUDY OF CHARACTER THROUGH THE AGES

In this program, Imagineers will explore what character is, what it means to us, and how it is created through the spoken and written word (as well as through performance!). It traces the evolution of character through the ages, beginning with ancient heroes such as Gilgamesh and ending with well-loved contemporary characters of the screen. It is a wide-ranging, immersive course with the chance to read aloud, perform and write your own characters.

13 February

Meeting 1: What Makes a Character?

Focus: Creating character

It's time to grab your magnifying glasses...or your binoculars...or your spectacles...or your monocle, if you're that way inclined. See, there are so many little things that make us who we are, it's time to investigate how these things add up to make a character. We're looking at the physical, including movement, dress and expression; the juicier stuff, like what's going on inside a character's head; and finally, the social dimensions of characters. After all, characters can't exist in a vacuum, and if they did, it would be kind of boring...and spooky. This session is perfect for anyone who loves reading, writing and drama. And for those who are confident enough, there will be a chance to perform!

27 February

Meeting 2: Heroes, Gods and Monsters

Focus: The Hero's Journey

What is a hero, anyway? Why are we so captivated by them, and why are they always fighting something? In this meeting, we explore the beginnings of The Hero and their journey, drawing from epic poetry and ancient myths such as *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (regarded as the earliest surviving great work of literature and the second oldest religious text). We look at the power of these tales and their influence on the way we understand ourselves in relation to the other. We also look at more contemporary manifestations of the hero and their journey, considering superheroes (ever heard of Batman?), everyday heroes and the evolving heroine. **Please read: Prologue & Chapter 1 of [The Epic of Gilgamesh](#)**

13 March

Meeting 3: Ancient Archetypes

Focus: 12 Archetypes (According to Jung), Crossing Cultures, The Oral Tradition

Have you ever noticed that we often see similar kinds of characters popping up in stories? From the Sage to the Jester, there are all sorts of patterns that occur within cultures, and between cultures as well. In this module, we explore the 12 archetypes according to Jung, and consider how many of our favourite characters can be slotted into this framework. Then, we discuss the benefits and limitations of this framework, looking at characters like Harry Potter – he fits the archetypal categories of both Hero and Wizard, for instance. Is J. K. Rowling subconsciously drawing from the 12 archetypes, intentionally playing with them, or departing from them altogether? This meeting is perfect for anyone interested in storytelling, history and drama! **Please read *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J. K. Rowling (or watch the film adaptation)**

27 March

Meeting 4: Out of Stock - Characters of the Theatre

Focus: Stock Characters, Character and Comedy

There are some characters that we just can't get enough of because they're so darn funny. Or perhaps it's because they tap into some greater truth, reminding us of many of the people we know. In this meeting, we look at stock characters, tracing back to 16th century Italy, where Commedia dell'Arte was born. We look at the value of stock characters, while also discussing their limitations. We also look at the relationship between character and genre, highlighting the use of stock characters in comedy. Are you ready to meet characters such as Harlequin, Pantalone, Zanni and Il Dottore? If you have the confidence, you will get the chance to play them as well and create your own scenes! ***Please read this [introduction to Commedia dell'Arte](#)***

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: Jasmine Cavanough

Jasmine graduated from the University of Sydney with a BA Media & Communications. While she was at university, she participated in university theatre productions and was the host of her own radio show. After working as a Debating & Public Speaking Coach and a Study Skills Provider for many years, Jasmine now works as an actor, but she still loves to teach when she gets the chance. Jasmine's favourite subjects are Literature, Philosophy, Theatre, Economics and Biology.