

# The BRAINWAVES Club

Term 1 2021: Imagineers – Years 3 and 4

Venue: Ryde Public School

Term Fee: \$285.00

## THE WONDROUS WORLD

The pen is mightier than the sword, so grab your weapon and feel the power of the word. Throughout human existence history has been heavily influenced by word. Words have the power to inspire, persuade, hurt, incite, educate and encourage. During this wondrous semester, the Imagineers will explore the influence of words and their impact on our lives. We will mix words and messages in fairy tales, dissect the word using satire, allegory and subtext and play with the creative use of word through poetry, copywriting and public speaking. We will explore rich texts and allow ample opportunity to express the power of words in a vast variety of forms! Let's discover just how wondrous words are!

### 6 February

**Meeting 1: Perspective Pandemonium**

**Focus: Perspective**

They may seem simple, but fables and fairy tales carry important messages and lessons. They also present interesting dilemmas. In today's meeting, the Imagineers will reach inside the box of *Perspective Pandemonium*, to uncover a world of mixed-up fables and fairy tale conundrums. We will be tipping the *predictable* on its boring old head!

What fairy tales do the wolf parents tell their pups about Red Riding Hood? What bedtime stories do trolls tell their children? What happens to the moral if we change the ending? What things scare the Big Bad Wolf? What happens next when the queen in Snow White suddenly falls in love with one of the dwarfs? Will she still be determined to destroy Snow White?

During this meeting, Imagineers will write a fable or fairy tale with an underlying theme that totally deconstructs archetypal characters, settings, plots and the traditional moral or message of a story. We will play with perspective to reveal inventive and imaginative writing possibilities!

### 20 February

**Meeting 2: Journalism and the Power of Fact**

**Focus: Research, report genre**

Are you a newsmonger at heart? Do you have to know all the facts? Do you ask hard-hitting questions? Do you investigate mysterious happenings around you? For example, why didn't the canteen helper serve dessert today? Or, why does your neighbour's dog always bark at 6pm?

Journalism is the activity of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information. Its purpose is to provide people with verified information they can use to make better decisions and to be fully informed. During this meeting, each Imagineer will be assigned a role in our *Imagineers Bugle* newspaper and together we will create its very first issue. We shall source, research, verify and write investigative news reports. Our articles will include, quotes from reliable sources and we'll make sure everything is relevant, detailed, in context and has a focus. **Please read *The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid* by Geronimo Stilton (available at any local library). You may also like to read any of the Tin Tin books and [National Geographic for Kids](#).**

**6 March**

**Meeting 3: What a Novel Idea!**

**Focus: Satire and allegory**

The allegorical novella, *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is as relevant today as when it was first written. By using unnamed characters to represent certain phases of human life, the author transcends cultures, borders and even decades. Using satire, allegory and poetry, the author creates a text that appeals to everyone – yesterday, today and tomorrow.

During this meeting, after identifying this text's key features, the Imagineers will invent more planets for the Little Prince to visit. We will create their inhabitants and join the planetary council for an intergalactic summit to discuss the fate of Earth.

With this newfound world in mind, together we will plot the novel's extension using allegory to subtly expose something suspicious. We will decide on the form, the voice, additional characters, their journey, the climax and conclusion. Our new chapter for *The Little Prince* may just call for a reprint of the original version! **Please read *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (available at any local library).**

**20 March**

**Meeting 4: Show... Don't tell!**

**Focus: Verbatim/Literal Theatre, script, subtext**

In today's meeting, the Imagineers will explore the idea of writing and staging a play layered with subtext. First, we will draw upon this week's texts to help us understand the vital role of subtext when scripting a play. The tragedy in *The Diary of Anne Frank* lies in the audience knowing her fate while she herself is oblivious; her optimism drives us to work towards a better world. The jovial interaction between the two friends in Jacqueline Wilson's text, *Secrets*, hides a more serious subtext that we will explore further in today's session. Theatre's power lies in not having to state the obvious and a call for action may be hidden within the folds of the narrative and in targeting the audience on an emotional level.

Imagineers will become thespians and directors as we select a common experience as inspiration for our collaborative script. We will interview one another and from this, we will discover much of our dialogue. The challenge will be that we must use the exact wording/passages as spoken by different club members. We will take note of speech fillers, pauses and stumbles. What will we learn from recording the nuances of speech? How does this add to the strength of our script? How will we incorporate subtext into our final product? Can we too incite social change? **Please read *Secrets* by Jacqueline Wilson and *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Francis Goodrich and Albert Hackett; available at any local library or [here](#).**

**What to bring:**

Please bring a notebook and a well-stocked pencil case to each meeting as well as a hat, drink and brain-friendly snacks for the break (no nuts please). Don't forget to bring a good dose of your wildest imagination!

**About the Club Leader: Zuzi Fort**

**Zuzi** studied at the University of Western Sydney – Nepean (Theatre) and at the University of Technology – Sydney (Communication – directing and scriptwriting). She has worked as an actor, director, scriptwriter, drama coach, radio/TV host as well as a stunt performer. For over fifteen years, Zuzi has worked with children and young adults encouraging their creativity, developing confidence and essential life skills. She has written numerous shows for theatre and a collection of poems and a children's story. Zuzi is an experienced G.A.T.E.WAYS presenter and looks forward to running Brainwaves Club again.