

# The BRAINWAVES Club

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

**Venue: Ryde Public School**

**Term Fee: \$285.00**

## **TAKING ON TECHNIQUES**

Which authors do you specifically read to learn their techniques? How do you engage readers in your stories and bring them to life? And how do you appeal to and engage your readers through the senses and emotions? These are intriguing questions that authors have grappled with since ancient times. However, by embedding good storytelling techniques you are unlocking the key to the heart of good writing! Great writers study the structure and form by delving into the secrets behind the words, to discover what techniques will powerfully inspire their readers and the generations that follow. Themes covered in these sessions, use successful literary devices combined with new media technologies to express universal ideas across time, ages and cultures.

**6 February**

**Meeting 1: The Adventure of 'Old Man and the Sea'**

**Focus: Evoking strong emotions in writing**

*"But man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated."* In this meeting, we will explore the tiresome and emotional journey of the old man and the sea. Tolkiens will read and analyse the first chapter then rewrite the story changing the role and purpose of the characters. We will explore Hemmingway's literary devices that evoke strong emotions using descriptive imagery, personification and figurative language. Then Tolkiens will craft their own story based on a similar moral tale and incorporate these techniques in your writings. Your aim in this session is to hold true to the original thought and draw out specific ideas from the text to form an elaborate colourful tapestry of actions around the moral of the story. **Please read the first chapter of the story ['Old Man and the Sea'](#) by Ernest Hemmingway**

**20 February**

**Meeting 2: Cold News Headlines to Juicy Short Stories**

**Focus: Creating intrigue & mystery**

In this session, Tolkiens will find a recent article that connected to an Australian crime story. The challenge will be to change the news article into a juicy short story centred around one incident. In this session, Tolkiens will explore how different genres of text can be transformed in a way that builds up the "flow" in your short story. We will imagine a conversation happening between two main characters from the news article to create a specific incident that happened. To support your journey, you will need to research Australian crime stories, then design wild and catchy prose that immediately captures the audiences' attention. A visual clue in your story can be carved into scratcher board with the main elements needed in the heading as you explore and analyse rich texts and develop your own writing skills. **Please find a current news article related to crime and bring into this session. Please also read *Crow Country* by Kate Constable (available on [booktopia](#) or at your local library).**

**6 March**

**Meeting 3: That's Thrilling!**

**Focus: Building complex and expressive characters**

Everyone loves a good thriller! In this session, Tolkiens will invent their own eye-opening thriller animation based on a character they have met in real life but the character and the experiences that the character faces in the story are not real. The physical activity will be to quickly build your main character using *Adobe Character Animator* software program to bring the characters to life in real time. Working in small collaborative teams, we will develop the character's features on the iPad, then use our imagination, write the scene, plot and thriller experience. Once the stage is set, we will screen shoot the story using dramatic and expressive voice, showcasing our diverse characters as we journey through their thrilling stories in a world of make-believe! **Please read *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Cryptic Crinoline* by Nancy Springer available on [Amazon](#) or at your local library. Please also view the trailer [here](#).**

**20 March**

**Meeting 4: “The Present” Shifting from Comics to Animation**

**Focus: Invoking multiple senses**

“The Present” is a short film from the Institute of Animation, Visual Effects and Digital Postproduction at the Filmakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg in Ludwigsburg, Germany. This animation has won awards for appreciation of disabilities and is based on comic strip by Fabio Coala. In this session, Tolkiens skillful action writing techniques will demonstrate the stylistic and structural difference between a comic and a cartoon. Imagine yourself in your own cartoon story called “The Present” but the characters and setting has changed and the problem and solution are very different. The Tolkiens will then learn how to animate their cartoons using Adobe Premier Rush software program. **Please watch [The Present \(2014\)](#) based on the [original comic strip](#) by [Fabio Coala](#).**

**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). For meetings 3 and 4, please bring an iPad/tablet with the following programs downloaded:

[Adobe Character Animator software](#) and [Adobe Premier Rush](#)

**About the Club Leader: Dr Bronwen Wade-Leeuwen**

*Bronwen has been lecturing at Macquarie University on the Teacher Education programs for the past 10 years. She is a trained primary school teacher and has over a decade of classroom experience. Bronwen holds an MA (Environmental Design) from Canberra University and is an Adobe Education Leader (AEL). Bronwen gained a PhD from the School of Education, Macquarie University, and specialises in bringing creativity into the classroom mix of subject areas, including encouraging children how to enjoy learning English language combined with new media technologies in an innovative and fun way.*