

The **BRAINWAVES** Club

Term 4 2021 | Tolkiens | Years 5 and 6

Venue: Brighton Grammar School

Term Fee: \$285

Meeting 5: Tragedy or comedy? You decide.

Focus: Drama and scripts

Today we will step 2,500 years back in time to explore the role of the chorus in Greek tragedies and comedies. You will become one of a group of actors in such a chorus who comment on the main action of the play. Initially we will use an original script from the times. Using techniques developed by renowned drama teachers from the National Theatre in London, your group will need learn to move and speak in perfect synchronicity. After this you will write your own script, either in tragic or comic form, for the chorus based on a myth or legend from ancient Greek mythology. Of course, the chorus will need appropriate masks as these were a common feature of costuming for chorus members.

Meeting 6 : Story Endings Crimes: Guilty or Innocent?

Focus: Creative thinking

“Then I woke up - it was all a dream!” Is there a worse ending to a story than this?! What about a conclusion where all the loose ends are tied up nicely – even through thoroughly implausible means? Or one where NONE of the pressing questions at the front of the reader’s mind are answered? What other endings might receive a “guilty” verdict from a panel of astute literary judges? After handing down your own conclusions about what makes a good or bad finale to a story, you’ll pick a narrative to re-write an ending for in your own way... hopefully avoiding some of the clichés and pitfalls you’ve seen in the work of others!

Meeting 7: AWAY with Words

Focus: Transmogrifying words - Something old becomes something new.

Jabberwocky is perhaps the most famous nonsense poem in all of English literature. Jabberwocky may be 'nonsense', but let's see if you can make some sense of this glorious work. In today’s meeting you will write your own poem or short narrative, using either your own made-up language as in the delightful picture book *Du Iz Tak* or a poem where you use made up words. Some nonsense words even become accepted and are added to the dictionary each year. Did you know that more than one thousand new words have been added to the Oxford English Dictionary this year? We will compile a dictionary of the words you have made up along with your definitions.

Meeting 8: The real story.

Focus: What’s the real story? The Story Mountain.

Sometimes we get so involved with the plots of our stories that we lose sight of the real message we want to get across. Cynthia Rylant’s masterful collection *Every Living Thing* is a

perfect mentor text for us to explore. In his book *The Singing Bones*, Shaun Tan expresses the 'heart' of the traditional Grimm's fairy tales in his small sculptures. He makes us think beyond plots to the real meaning of these traditional tales. For example, his tiny sculpture of the frog king focuses on the ripples of the water that surround and imprison the king and his tiny pleading hands. The real story here is the plight of the king rather than the traditional image of him as a proud royal figure. This meeting you will create your own tiny sculptures to represent a moment in time in your own life. You will then use the sculpture and the language it generates to write your own narrative where all elements enhance the real heart of your story.

About the club leader - Layla Sacker

Layla has worn the hats of an early childhood, primary and secondary school teacher. She has a firm belief in the capacity of children to think outside the box and her creative writing students have done just that. She has facilitated creative writing workshops for students from all levels where poetry and drama are an important component for young writers. She uses technology and media as texts as well as traditional literature. Layla has a passion for art and science and has exhibited her own artworks.