



A G.A.T.E.WAYS JOURNEY PROGRAM

For gifted Year 5 and 6 children with a
love of language and writing

Dashing, Daring and Dangerous:

An Adventure-Writing Odyssey!

G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organization offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. This *JOURNEY* for both girls and boys will run over four mornings.

Prepare to write yourself into a thrilling tale of high adventure, daring survival, secret treasure troves and heart-stopping dangers! This dynamic immersive writing experience is only for the most outrageous and inventive of writers: take a deep breath we delve into classic adventure novels, discover famously scintillating action scenes, and dig up inspiration for our own pulse-racing fiction...

Set sail for *Treasure Island*, venture down *King Solomon's Mines*, go in search of *Robinson Crusoe* or *Robin Hood*, hunt down the *Gold Bug* or *White Fang*, or lose yourself in the *Jungle Book* or the *Lost World*: the possibilities are endless as we go in search of adventure on and off the page, and compose new engrossing chapters for a classic action novella of our own!

Session One: Lands of Discovery

WHY do we like adventure stories?! WHAT is it that ignites that initial fire of excitement, and keeps the actions and surprises coming at such breakneck speed? And WHERE can we start seeking this swash-buckling writing adventure of our own? Today we'll visit famous sites of fictional adventures, from the balmy paradise of *Coral Island* to the snowy wilderness of *Call of the Wild*, and the depths of *King Solomon's Mines* to the treetop house of *The Swiss Family Robinson* to collect the building blocks for a new exotic story location where our own narratives will begin.

Session Two: Who Goes There?

But WHICH characters should go adventuring? And WHO might an intrepid adventurer meet on their exciting travels? Our action-packed stories will need a cast of remarkable and memorable characters: will it be meeting Long John Silver and Man Friday, or Princess Aouda and Ishmael, or even Mowgli and Maid Marian who will spark your creation of an adventuring narrator and their foes and friends before the day is out?

Session Three: Danger Ahead!

We know where, and we know who – but now what hazards and obstacles will our newly-sprung adventurer face in their ongoing quest for treasure or survival? HOW do we write plots that have pace and energy on the page? You won't be kept in suspense long (though your readers might be!) when bringing drama and intrigue to our rapidly expanding novellas, as we add chapters chockful of thrilling events and puzzling plot-twists by following the narrative clues from stories like *The Gold Bug* or *Around the World in 80 Days*. Be warned - there WILL be cliff-hangers...!

Session Four: Unlocking the Treasure Chest

The excitement has been teetering on a knife-edge, as we now breathlessly race to the finishing chapters of our adventure novella: no spoilers, but it's time for the spoils of our endeavours - the prize we've been seeking! What

kind of things do YOU treasure? What do adventurers sometimes find and learn that make them feel even richer than all the gold on *Treasure Island*? What have WE mapped and explored and discovered on this writing odyssey, and how can we bring our action-adventure stories to nail-biting and blood-rushing climactic finales?! The pen has proven mightier than even the sword, and the power is yours – let the adventure loose one last time!

Homework

Aspiring and dedicated adventurers on this journey will definitely want to complete their new chapters and creative designs each week to share the following session!

About the Presenter

Kim Edwards has taught English literature and creative writing to university and high school students, and drama and theatre skills to both adults and kids all over Melbourne. She has run book clubs and cabarets, performed Shakespeare and written sonnets, dabbled in Dickens and is best buddies with the Brontes, and while she loves a ripping good yarn, she is still convinced *everything* we get to read and write in our lives is always a thrilling new adventure!

Requirements

Adventurers always come prepared! Pack:

- a well-stocked pencil case with pens and pencils for writing and colouring
- a glue stick
- an exercise book and some loose leaf paper in a plastic pocket or folder
- a small named photo of yourself (explorers might be famous one day)
- a stamped, self-addressed DL envelope for your report
- a snack (adventuring is hungry work!)

