

## A G.A.T.E.WAYS JOURNEYS PROGRAM

for gifted Year 3 and 4 children

with a love of learning and thinking

***'It's About Time!!'***

***..an adventure with Tommy and the Time Turtle***

**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 sessions. Once upon a time, there was a little boy called Tommy. I think he was probably quite a lot like you. His mind was constantly whirring; his head was so full of questions that sometimes he couldn't sleep at night. Sound familiar?

Well, one day a very mysterious letter in a heavy purple envelope with *his* name embossed on the front, was delivered by the postman. Tommy carefully opened the letter and was baffled when he read,

*Dear Tommy,*

*I want to offer you the chance of a lifetime. All you have to do is give me a minute. I am collecting time as I am so slow. Please call me on 0410 776 542 and we'll see if you will win that chance of a lifetime.*

*Regards*

*The Time Turtle*

'Hmm,' thought Tommy in his usual thoughtful fashion, 'why not? What is a minute or two in the grand scheme of things? What do I have to lose by calling, only time after all?' Tommy immediately phoned the number.

'Hello Is that Mr Time Turtle?

Yes Tommy?'

'How do you know who is calling?'

'Well I am the Time turtle and I know everything about time! I want to congratulate you on winning a chance in a lifetime.'

'What is it?' shouted Tommy.

'Oh dear, oh dear, my poor ears. You don't have to shout. I can hear you!'

'Sorry, I always shout when I become excited!'

'Well, you have won some time and an amazing trip in my time machine. Can you believe it? You are going to travel through whirling vortexes and back in time to four different periods. To return to the present I am going to ask you to complete four challenges. But there is a catch. If you don't complete them and collect the four golden timepieces that you'll need to get back home, you will stay in that time zone forever. Are you up for it?'

'Oh boy, of course,' shouted Tommy, 'how EXCITING!!!'

'But PLEASE don't shout! I can't take the stress.'

'Sorry, when do I start?'

'Immediately. As in... right NOW!'

So grab your coats, let's join Tommy and the Time Turtle as they hurtle through space, complete astounding challenges, discuss amazing philosophical questions and discover all about time. Let's hope we all make it back to the present.

### **The First Vortex (back to the year 2000) Tommy and the Time Turtle by Mathew Lipman.**

Whoosh! Tommy's ears rang as the time machine zoomed through the vortex, slowed down in what seemed like a flash, and then gently floated to the ground. As he gingerly made his way down the stairs, he could see a large, glowing ring of lights on the ground with a sign *The Ring of Time*. When Tommy made his way into the circle and sat down, he was amazed to see a series of questions flashing around the circle: How old are you now that you have travelled back in time today? If everyone could time travel, not just you, how would that affect the world? If you could make a tree grow faster does that mean you could speed up how quickly you could grow? Tommy's head started to spin as the questions travelled faster and faster around the circle. He thought his brain might explode! When he looked up, he could see his new 'old friend' disappearing into the distance. In no time at all he had caught up, only to discover that they were making a detour to the supermarket where, quite surprisingly, four of his favourite superheroes were working - Supergirl, Wonder Woman, Thor and Batman. His challenge was to choose which one was going to accompany them on their next adventure. Tommy shivered, now slightly unnerved, 'W..w..why are we going to need a superhero?'


'Well you know how slow I am, and in an emergency I might not be fast enough, so, to make sure that we get back to the present, we really need a superhero with us as our insurance!'

'Wow, how cool!'

In this first vortex you will help Tommy decide which superhero to take with him on his journey. but you'll need to have really good reasons! At the end of this session, will you earn your first golden timepiece? Let's hope so, as I'm sure you won't want to be stuck here at the very start of your adventure.

### The Second Vortex (back to the year 1980)

### I Think and The Munch Kids

There was no time to lose. Tommy, the Time Turtle and  superhero entered the time machine. This time when they passed through the vortex and came to a standstill, Tommy had no sense whatsoever of time passing. As he stepped into the unfamiliar landscape, he saw the glow of the ring of time once again. This time though, the questions seemed to be even more perplexing 'What is existence? How deep is deepest space? What is time? Will time ever end?' There was a lot of babbling coming from behind a rocky outcrop and no sooner than Tommy had asked TT who it was, than a whole bunch of children jumped out. 'We've been waiting for you. We're the Munch Kids and we need you to help us make sense of the past, present, future and the UNIVERSE.' 'Oh boy, my head is sure going to hurt,' laughed Tommy. To collect your second golden timepiece you and Tommy will have three tricky tasks, all related to time. 'Can I have help if I need it?' queried Tommy. 'Of course you can,' sighed the Time Turtle. 'Don't you know that many minds make incredible ideas and we need the best ideas we can find?' Join Tommy and his superhero and see if you can 'win' that second golden timepiece.

### The Third Vortex (back to the year 1960)

### Peter Worley and the Time Freezing Machine

Tommy was really starting to enjoy himself as he settled into the time travelling – it wasn't one bit scary, even if he did miss his mum just a tad. Next time he stepped out of the machine, he saw a funny old brick building with a slate roof, and through its dirty shopfront window, he could just make out the now familiar ring of time winking at him. They rang the bell and could hear the sound reverberating in a room beyond. After some time they heard footsteps, and when the door opened, a young man smiled warmly and gestured for them to step inside. 'Welcome to my thinking book shop, my name is Peter, please come in.' Peter settled the time travellers on some big comfy cushions. Tommy relaxed and smiled as Peter took a seat inside the circle and picked up some books from the closest shelf. Tommy felt excited as he read the spines, *The Tellyscope*, *The Time Freezing Machine* and *Time-Stretching*, and later, when Peter had finished reading the stories, he challenged them with more questions: 'Is sleep a kind of a time machine?, How can we tell if time has stopped?, If the world was spun in the opposite direction would that make time go backwards?' No sooner had the questions been asked, than an argument broke out between superhero and Tommy. 'Aha,' said the Time Turtle, 'your real challenge is to see if you can disagree with someone's opinion by giving good reasons and maybe even disagreeing with your own opinion!' 'I'll never do that!' shouted Tommy. 'Well you never know!' winked the Time Turtle. To collect today's golden time piece we will respond to the poem "Thoughting" by writing our own poems about time. Can you impress TT and add to your timepiece collection?

### The Last Vortex (back to the year 1940)

### Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

'I can't wait to go home to tell everyone about my travels,' said Tommy excitedly. 'Not so fast. You've got one more timepiece to collect otherwise you will be stuck here forever!' TT reminded him. 'Well let's get on with it!' shouted Tommy. "Tommy!" said the Time Turtle sternly. 'Sorry, I'm just excited to tell everyone what has happened to me!' As the little group tumbled out of the time machine, Tommy felt somewhat unsettled. This time the people looked so different. Their clothes were very old-fashioned, the ladies had very unusual hairstyles and the cars looked like they had come from the vintage car rally that he and his dad had recently visited. Adding to this feeling was the fact that there was no time circle, but another one that had been formed by a whole lot of images of very old things circling in the air just above their heads. Above it all he could see a rainbow-shaped sign with the words Memory Circle inscribed on it. For our last challenge we will hear the story of Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge and ponder the meaning of memory and other questions such as: 'Where does yesterday go? 'Does the past exist?' 'When we look at a photograph are we time travelling?' What item would you choose from your past to help you go back to the future? To collect your last golden time piece you will produce an exciting response to our journey: a written piece about our journey through the eyes of your superhero, a series of drawings, a short play or oral or written philosophical discussions about time.

*Dear Readers,*

*Did Tommy return to the present? Did he really have a chance of a lifetime? Only you can answer these questions.*

*Best Regards,*

*The Time Turtle.*

**Requirements:** Bring a snack (no nuts), an exercise book; coloured pencils or textas; Also bring a small photo of yourself and a stamped, self-addressed DL envelope to the first session for the report. Put child's name/yearlevel/program on the back.

**Homework:** Each week a different group of students will find out some facts about the time period that we will be travelling to and share these facts with the rest of the class.

**About the presenter:** Sharon Leibowitz is an experienced educator with enthusiasm for ensuring that learning is creative, practical and enjoyable. She has specialised in the area of gifted education for over 20 years and has a passion for the development of Mathematical and Philosophical skills across the primary years. She particularly enjoys the task of designing Mathematical curriculum using the 'thinking treasure' of children's literature, art and science.