



A G.A.T.E.WAYS JOURNEY

For gifted Year 3 and 4 children with a

love of reading and writing

'Magical Moments and Spell-binding Secrets

..Welcome to Hogwarts!'

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.

Do you solemnly swear to get up to no good?! Those magic words will unlock the infamous Marauder's Map for us, as we arrive at Hogwarts together to navigate our way as first-year students through J.K. Rowling's magical School of Wizardry and Witchcraft! Over our four sessions, we'll be exploring all the secret rooms, marvellous artefacts, school traditions and familiar characters we can find, and using our discoveries to inspire our own fantastical stories of action, adventure and excitement within the walls of Harry Potter's alma mater.

Requirements: New Hogwarts students will need to have read at least *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, and to bring a new A4 writing book and a well-stocked pencil case (a magical pet owl, cat, toad or rat is optional...)

Also – very important! - bring a small named photo of yourself and a stamped, self-addressed DL envelope (for return of your report) to Session 1 and a yummy snack each week (no nut products please)

Session One: All Aboard the Hogwarts' Express!

Today is the first day of the school year at Hogwarts, with a host of excited new students arriving – including you! An official letter from Hogwarts will start our literary adventures, as you write yourself (as the character you invent) into Rowling's astonishing world. We'll stop to shop in Diagon Alley, ferret out some of the possible magical portals to our destination, collect our Marauder's Map, take a roll call, and meet the Sorting Hat, before settling into our dorm rooms to unpack our ideas into the opening chapters of our own brand-new Potter-verse story!

Session Two: Starting Your Wizardry Career!

Classes have commenced – get out your maps, and let's find out where we're going today! You'll receive your own class schedule to follow as we travel around to meet some of the familiar Hogwarts teachers, try out some spell-writing and potion-making, stage an unusual 'literary' Quidditch match, and finish by imagining up some new classmates to help populate our narratives! Will your recent mysterious acquaintance prove to be an ally or an antagonist in your ensuing Hogwarts adventures...?

Session Three: Unlocking Dark Secrets!

We've been overlaying Rowling's stories with our own new narratives – now we're going to imprint over her world by actually 'drawing on' Hogwarts! Despite its reputation, our Marauder's maps aren't showing all the secrets in the school – choose a mysterious magical gift as inspiration today to propel your character into the dark hidden places above, below and beyond the familiar classrooms, dorms and halls, as we map out new areas, discover old and new magical artefacts, and reveal a strange message that will keep us all puzzling until our next session...

Session Four: Facing Foes and Defying Dangers!

Just when we were starting to get comfortable in the strange, shifting, intriguing space that is Hogwarts, danger rears its ugly head (and if it's like an escaped Troll, Norbert the dragon or Fluffy the three-headed dog, that could get pretty ugly!) The meaning of that cryptic message from last time is about to be revealed... so this is our chance to draw together all the threads of our imaginings (both on our maps and in our narratives) and write ourselves into a last dramatic adventure! What have you learned as a magic-making Hogwarts student (AND as a spell-binding creative writer on the Journey) that will help you escape the clutches of your enemies and triumph over evil in your story's final chapter?

Homework: Hogwarts' best and brightest students will strive to hone the magic of their writing talents by completing their creative pieces each week to share the following session!

About the Presenter

Kim teaches 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!

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