



A G.A.T.E.WAYS JOURNEY

For gifted Year 3 and 4 children with a

love of reading and writing

'NEVER A DAHL MOMENT'

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* will run over four sessions. Greetings to you, the lucky finder of this Golden Ticket from G.A.T.E.WAYS! I shake you warmly by the hand! Tremendous things are in store for you! Many wonderful surprises await you! For now, I do invite you to come on this Journey and be my guest for one whole amazing writing and literary program that takes us travelling into the wondrous worlds and words of Roald Dahl – you and all others who are lucky enough to find my Golden Tickets! Mystical and marvelous surprises in his stories will entrance, delight, intrigue, astonish and perplex you beyond measure... and inspire you to write more charming, cheeky, churlish, challenging and chocolaty-good fiction than you've ever written before!

Session One: Riding the Rapids on a River of Chocolate... Exploring *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*!

Factories are usually dark, grim, impersonal places, but Willy Wonka makes inventing, industry and consuming literally delicious! Does that mean greed is good?! Is his marvelous workplace the perfect world when compared to Charlie's life at home? We'll be designing our own perfect room today, and also writing up the missing chapter to this novel: the one where Charlie finds out what's behind *another* of the magic doors along the chocolate river!

Session Two: Sizing Up and Growing Down... Measuring *The BFG* and *James and the Giant Peach*!

Have you ever wanted to be bigger? Taller? Older?! How many stories can you think of where things are changing size?! Thing is, when 'big' and 'little' start getting messed up, how can you tell who is grown-up and who's a kid?! We're going to be playing with words like the BFG, doing some shape-shifting role play to explore life in the Giant Peach, and literally looking at the world from different perspectives in our creative narratives by writing as a giant, an adult, a child and an insect!

Session Three: Hilarity and Horribleness... Investigating *Revolting Rhymes* and hunting out *The Witches*!

Gross, gruesome and grotesque: laughing at the yucky stuff is sometimes called 'childish', but comedy actually is a great way to triumph over anything scary and make fun of what could be embarrassing! Roald Dahl certainly knew that, and broke lots of 'rules' in children's literature by giving kids funny stories that included some very nasty people and stories! Can you fracture a famous fairytale like he can, and invent a new horrible character for his books?!

Session Four: It's a Gift!... Besotted with books and reading with *Matilda*!

Just like us, Matilda loves books and words, and like us, she sometimes finds it hard at school or at home to balance her passion for literature and language with the rest of her life! Here's our chance to write about ourselves as readers and writers, and think about how our experiences really compare to our heroine. Why does her author create so many difficulties for her? Does she use her gift well? If you had her special talent - what would you use it for...?!

Requirements: You are to bring an exercise book, a well-stocked pencil-case and a snack (no nuts please- snozzberries are always good at this time of year). Be certain to have read the books **before** undertaking this Journey and if you can, bring the right ones along with you for each session. Finally (and this is very important) - *please* leave any dangerous hornswogglers, terrible snozzwangers or wicked whangdoodles at home. They frighten the Oompa Loompas...

Homework:

Make sure you read up on the next week's book, and finish off any creative work after each session to bring back shiny and complete as your Golden Ticket for the next week!

About the Presenter

Kim Edwards 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! Kim is currently the club leader for G.A.T.E.WAYS Tolkiens Club.