



G.A.T.E.WAYS

invites gifted & talented Year 1 and 2 children
with a love of maths and problem solving to

'Saving Rapunzel'

G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organisation offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. Established in 1994, G.A.T.E.WAYS runs a range of stimulating school programs as well as the Saturday *Brainwaves Club*.

Most people know the story of Rapunzel, but few people realize the difficulties and complexities encountered by those who tried to save her. The prince needs your help as he gathers his team of soldier, guard and horseman, and sets out on his treacherous journey to rescue Rapunzel! Faced with a variety of challenges along the way, the team is required to problem solve, use their mathematical skills, think logically, and plot their progress as they venture across rivers, through forests, and ultimately scale the tower. Will you have the mathematical skills, the logical mind, the problem-solving ability and the group co-operation to solve the challenges week by week as you get closer and closer to rescuing Rapunzel?

Requirements: *Bring blank note paper, coloured pencils or textas, a ruler, rubber, and grey lead pencil; a hat (Terms 1 and 4); a small, current labelled photograph of yourself; a stamped, self-addressed DL envelope for your report

Session 1 *"The quest begins"*

Revisiting the story of Rapunzel, students will explore the quest before them, venturing through forests, across lakes, and avoiding the wicked goblins. Using problem solving techniques and logical reasoning, students will determine their roles and characters for the quest. As a team, they will then decide upon the necessary food supplies for their journey (a money and calculation) and determine how they will transport their equipment and supplies (weight calculations).

Session 2 *"The pathway is never simple"*

The team reunite this week to continue their journey. Attempting the track through the forest requires a complex sequence of moves, which each member of the team must memorise and perform (patterns and sequences). A scavenger hunt results in an ordered line up of items as the team search for more equipment and supplies (length calculations). Before the day ends, the team investigate the probability of choosing the right map, packing suitable food, and dressing the team in identical shirts (introduction to probability).

Session 3 *"Making choices"*

It's a day for making choices! Extra points are obtained by those with quick and accurate arithmetic skills, who can outwit the goblins. The choices continue as the teams experiment with different ways in which they can pass on messages and travel through the forest (permutations and combinations).

Session 4 *"The rescue!"*

With the rescue in sight, the teams need to work together to conquer the final challenges. Crossing the river is no easy task, with a boat built only for two (problem solving and role play). The goblins continue to pose a problem and threaten to end the journey unless the teams can solve their riddles (logical reasoning). The witch arrives and complicates the rescue, with 'multiple' problems and challenges (multiplication). Rapunzel is in sight, but the tower is high. As they scale the wall, a number of complex mazes separate the rescue teams from Rapunzel!

Homework requirements & assessment

Homework tasks will be linked to the activities from each week, with students required to plot their progress on a map, calculate their accumulating point score, and graph the results of their day's work.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Alison Brown is a registered Australian psychologist, an experienced teacher, a parent and author. She was a committee member and Vice President of the Victorian Association for Gifted and Talented Children over six years, has presented at a number of state, national and international conferences in the areas of technology, gifted education, and psychology, and has provided extensive consultation and training programs to schools in Australia, Switzerland, Germany and America. Having taught for ten years and worked as a school psychologist and in private practice, she has first-hand experience in recognizing and catering for the social, emotional, and academic needs of students. With a post-graduate degree in child and adolescent psychology, Alison established a private practice in Australia, in 2004, with a particular interest in the areas of parenting, counselling, and gifted children. She returns to Australia this year, after 6 years in New York and New Jersey, USA where she worked across several school districts as a consultant in gifted education, and as Adjunct Professor of Psychology at Seton Hall University. Alison was a trustee and VP on the board of the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children for four years, has recently published a number of books (both counselling and educational resources), and is currently completing a PhD through La Trobe University looking at the benefits of using narrative therapy with children.

