



# Word Play

**10–12 May 2023, State Library of Queensland**

**Dive into BWF's education program for keen readers and writers across Prep to Year 12  
– it's an adventure from beginning to end!**



**[bwf.org.au/wordplay](http://bwf.org.au/wordplay)**

# Getting to the Festival

**Word Play** is held at the State Library of Queensland, Stanley Place, South Brisbane. SLQ is easily accessible by public transport.

## **State Library of Queensland Venue Spaces:**

**slq Auditorium 1**, level 2, State Library of Queensland

**slq Auditorium 2**, level 2, State Library of Queensland

**The Edge Auditorium**, level 1, State Library of Queensland

**Heritage Collections Learning Room**, level 4,  
State Library of Queensland

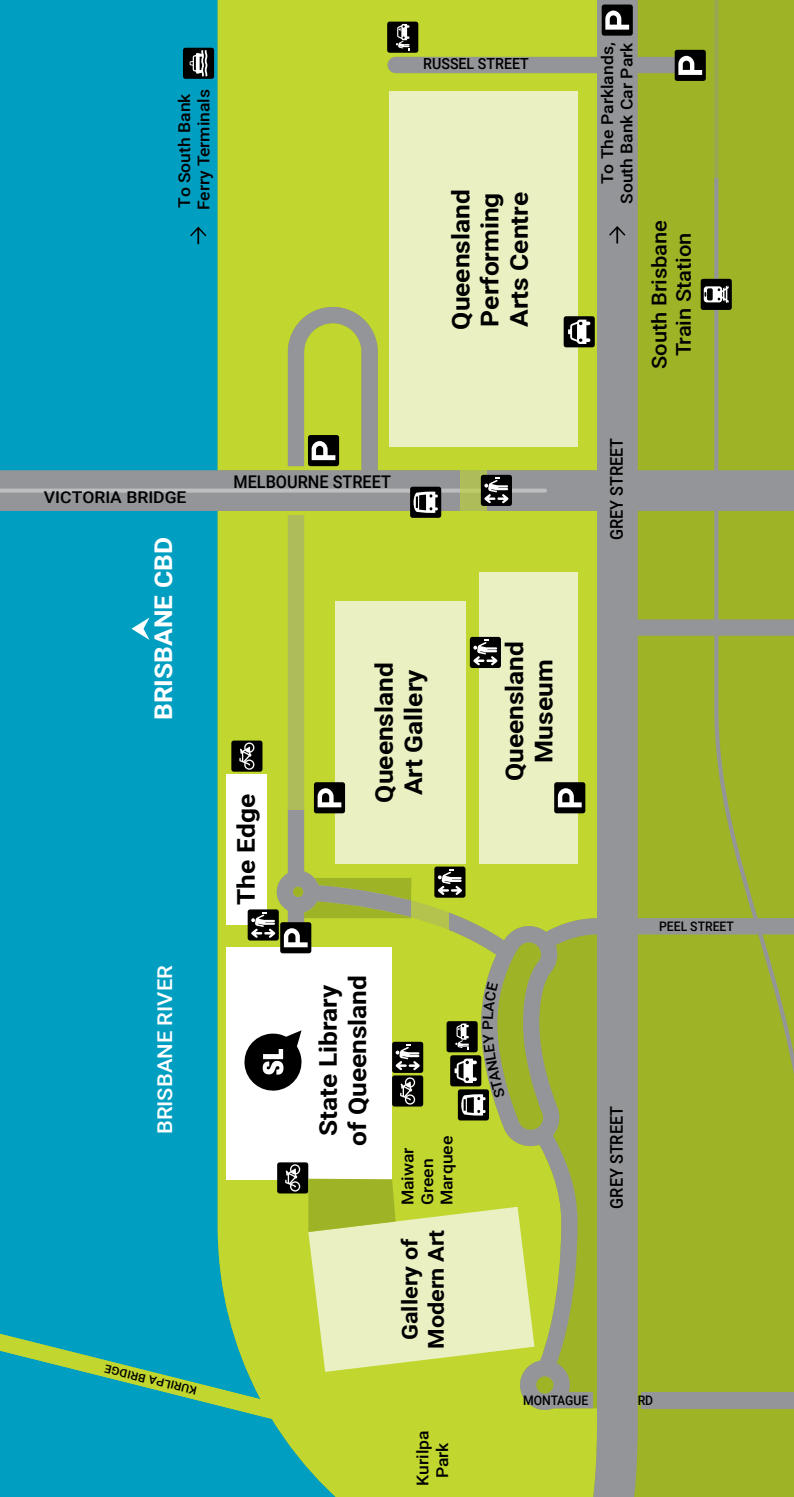
**Queensland Terrace**, level 2, State Library of Queensland

**Train:** South Brisbane train station is a 5-10 minute walk away.

**Bus:** The Cultural Centre busway station is a 5-10 minute walk away. There is also a temporary bus set-down space at Stanley Place for chartered buses.

**Car:** There is a temporary drop off zone for passengers at Stanley Place. Paid parking is also available throughout the Cultural Centre precinct.





BRISBANE RIVER

BRISBANE CBD

KURILPA BRIDGE

Kurilpa  
Park

Gallery of  
Modern Art

Maiwar  
Green  
Marquee

SL

State Library  
of Queensland

The Edge

Queensland  
Art Gallery

Queensland  
Museum

Queensland  
Performing  
Arts Centre

South Brisbane  
Train Station

RUSSEL STREET

MELBOURNE STREET

VICTORIA BRIDGE

GREY STREET

GREY STREET

PEEL STREET

MONTAGUE

RD

→ To South Bank  
Ferry Terminals

→

To The Parklands,  
South Bank Car Park

# Partners

**Word Play** is proudly supported by

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## Government Partners



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*



## Major Partners



## Supporting Partner



## Teacher Professional Development Seminar

**9am–12pm, Thursday 11 May,  
slq Heritage Collections Learning Room**

Teachers and teacher-librarians, don't miss out on this fantastic seminar for professional development, featuring:

**Supporting AusLit in schools: 'The Books of Our Own Backyard' with Danielle Binks**

**Creating Characters with Nova Weetman**

**Think little, grow big: creative narratives from the everyday with Samantha Wheeler**

Read more about the workshops and presentations in this seminar at [bwf.org.au/teacherpd](http://bwf.org.au/teacherpd).

# What's On

Wednesday, 10 May

Time	Auditorium 1
11:30am–12:30pm	<b>Nat Amoores</b> Chaos Kid (Years 4–6)
1pm–2pm	<b>Matt Stanton</b> A World of Interesting Stories (Years 4–6)

Time	Auditorium 2
11:30am–12:30pm	<b>Lystra Rose</b> How to fib your way to fictional truths (Years 9–12)
1pm–2pm	<b>Allison Rushby</b> A story is like a jigsaw puzzle (Prep–Year 3)

Time	The Edge Auditorium
1pm–2pm	<b>Oliver Phommavanh</b> What About Thao? (Years 7–8)

Time	Queensland Terrace
11:30am–12:30pm	<b>JiHyeon Lee</b> Dive into the Storytelling Pool (Prep–Year 3)
1pm–2pm	<b>Gihun Lee</b> The Power of Art to Explore Global Issues (Years 3–8)

Legend				
Prep–Year 3	Years 4–6	Years 7–8	Years 9–12	Teacher PD

# Thursday, 11 May

Time	Heritage Collections Learning Room
9am–12pm	<b>Danielle Binks, Nova Weetman &amp; Samantha Wheeler</b> Teacher Professional Development Seminar

Time	Auditorium 1
10am–11am	<b>Nat Amooore</b> Chaos Kid (Years 4–6)
11:30am–12:30pm	<b>Matt Stanton</b> A World of Interesting Stories (Years 4–6)
1pm–2pm	<b>Kate &amp; Jol Temple</b> Underdogs: True Crime for Kids! (Years 4–6)

Time	Auditorium 2
10am–11am	<b>Jared Thomas</b> Facing Truths and Finding Balance (Years 9–12)
11:30am–12:30pm	<b>Will Kostakis</b> The Ups and Downs of Being Personal (Years 9–12)

Time	The Edge Auditorium
10am–11am	<b>Kate &amp; Jol Temple</b> Bin Chickens and Panda-monium! (Prep–Year 3)
11:30am–12:30pm	<b>Oliver Phommavanh</b> What About Thao? (Years 7–8)
1pm–2pm	<b>Nat Amooore</b> Unconventional: An Author’s Journey (Years 7–8)

Legend				
Prep– Year 3	Years 4–6	Years 7–8	Years 9–12	Teacher PD

# Friday, 12 May

Time	Auditorium 1
10am–11am	<b>Jared Thomas</b> Offline and Online (Years 4–6)
11:30am–12:30pm	<b>Kate &amp; Jol Temple</b> Bumbling Baddies and Rotten Rogues! (Years 4–6)
1pm–2pm	<b>Renée Trembl</b> Unravelling the Mysteries of Visual Storytelling (Years 4–6)

Time	Auditorium 2
10am–11am	<b>Kathryn Apel &amp; Renée Trembl</b> The Bird in the Herd: Shaping an Australian Farm Story (Prep–Year 3)
11:30am–12:30pm	<b>Will Kostakis</b> The Ups and Downs of Being Personal (Years 9–12)
1pm–2pm	<b>Amelia Mellor</b> Solving the Plot Puzzle (Years 7–8)

Time	The Edge Auditorium
10am–11am	<b>Nova Weetman</b> Storytelling from Television to Books (Years 7–8)
11:30am–12:30pm	<b>Oliver Phommavanh</b> What About Thao? (Years 7–8)
1pm–2pm	<b>Nova Weetman</b> Storytelling from Television to Books (Years 9–12)

Legend				
Prep–Year 3	Years 4–6	Years 7–8	Years 9–12	Teacher PD

# Word Play

**10–12 May 2023, State Library of Queensland**

The major sponsor of 2023 Word Play is **The University of Queensland**.

The Word Play program is curated by **Megan Daley**.

## **Nat Amooore**

**Chaos Kid | Years 4–6**

**11:30am–12:30pm,**

**Wednesday 10 May,**

**slq Auditorium 1**

**10am–11am, Thursday**

**11 May, slq Auditorium 1**

Nat Amooore presents a roller-coaster ride through the wild tale that is her life—how does a cheeky kid become an award-winning, internationally published author? You'll find out as we delve into the chaos of Nat's childhood and discover how your very own mistakes and mishaps can become hilarious tales of adventure and mayhem.

**Unconventional: An Author's Journey | Years 7–8**

**1pm–2pm, Thursday 11 May,**  
**slq The Edge**

Nat Amooore didn't always want to be an author and she never dreamed she **COULD** be. But an unbelievable career path and a life of adventure gave her the experiences to fill the books she writes today. From reality shows to a travelling circus, rock concerts to Caribbean sail boats, discover why Nat's written adventures seem larger than life—but perhaps are not.

## **Lystra Rose**

**How to fib your way to fictional truths | Years 9–12**

**11:30am–12:30pm,**

**Wednesday 10 May,**

**slq Auditorium 2**

Life is messy. So writing about life needs to be a catastrophic drama-fest. Yet as writers, our stories—even magical fantasies—must be based on truth. Learn how and when to unleash your emotive ammo in a 'show, don't tell' presentation that may leave you finding shelter from the storytelling storm—literally and figuratively.

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## **JiHyeon Lee**

**Dive into the Storytelling Pool | Prep–Year 3**

**11:30am–12:30pm,**

**Wednesday 10 May,**

**slq Queensland Terrace**

Join with South Korean author/illustrator JiHyeon Lee to discuss her wordless picture book *Pool*. Perfect for an early childhood audience, wordless books offer young readers the opportunity to discuss their own interpretations of the story, filling the gaps and making connections.

A short in-conversation with JiHyeon Lee will be followed by activities based on the book as a storytelling tool and art form.

**Supported by the Korean Cultural Centre Australia and Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea**



## **Matt Stanton**

### **A World of Interesting Stories | Years 4–6**

**1pm–2pm, Wednesday  
10 May, slq Auditorium 1**

**11:30am–12:30pm, Thursday  
11 May, slq Auditorium 1**

This lively and funny presentation encourages students to see reading as the hunt for interesting stories. Interesting stories are hiding in all their school subjects but mostly, in their library and local bookshop. For a story to be interesting it requires readers to engage, so Matt inspires them to pursue reading with enthusiasm and joy.

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## **Allison Rushby**

### **A story is like a jigsaw puzzle | Prep–Year 3**

**1pm–2pm, Wednesday  
10 May, slq Auditorium 2**

Join award-winning children's author Allison Rushby as she explains how a story is like a jigsaw puzzle and shows young readers how they can start to piece together their own story puzzles too.

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## **Jared Thomas**

### **Facing Truths and Finding Balance | Years 9–12**

**10am–11am, Thursday  
11 May, slq Auditorium 2**

Author Jared Thomas is a Nukunu person and the highly regarded author of critically acclaimed books such as *My Spare Heart*, an uplifting story about family breakdowns, facing truths and finding balance. Join Jared Thomas as

he talks about his inspiration for his writing for young adults and explores writing truths.

### **Offline and Online | Years 4–6**

**10am–11am, Friday 12 May,  
slq Auditorium 1**

Join First Nations storyteller Jared Thomas, author of *Uncle Xbox*, for a session exploring growing up, family and finding your place in a digital world. Or not. Jared Thomas will talk about his inspiration for his writing and how you can enjoy reading, writing and gaming—not necessarily in that order.

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## **Oliver Phommavanh**

### **What About Thao? | Years 7–8**

**1pm–2pm, Wednesday  
10 May, slq The Edge**

**11:30am–12:30pm, Thursday  
11 May, slq The Edge**

**11:30am–12:30pm, Friday  
12 May, slq The Edge**

What happens when a city kid moves to a country town in the middle of nowhere? Discover how Oliver P got inspired to write his latest book, how he gets his ideas for stories, and why being different can make a difference. You'll walk away with a few ideas to write your own stories too!

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## **Gihun Lee**

### **The Power of Art to Explore Global Issues | Years 3–8**

**1pm–2pm, Wednesday 10  
May, slq Queensland Terrace**

Join acclaimed South Korean picture book artist Gihun Lee for an in-conversation about his use of picture book art as a means to explore global issues

of sustainability and climate change. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss Gihun Lee's wordless picture book, 9:47, in groups and unpack ideas and concepts with the audience and the author.

Supported by the Korean Cultural Centre Australia and Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea

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## **Kate & Jol Temple**

**Bin Chickens and Panda-monium! | Prep–Year 3**

**10am–11am, Thursday  
11 May, slq The Edge**

From Bin Chickens to Pandas that have lost their bottoms, Kate and Jol have created hilarious and strange animal characters. Get ready to join in as they rhyme their way through some of their most loved picture books. Warning, lots of silly voices!

**Underdogs: True Crime for Kids! | Years 4–6**

**1pm–2pm, Thursday  
11 May, slq Auditorium 1**

A very serious crime has taken place in Dogtown: SOMEONE HAS STOLEN ALL THE TENNIS BALLS just before the Grand Slam. Join the Underdogs as we crack this Dogtown Mystery.

**Bumbling Baddies and Rotten Rogues! | Years 4–6**

**11:30am–12:30pm, Friday  
12 May, slq Auditorium 1**

Join Kate and Jol for an evil mastermind convention as they explore the world of kooky crooks! They dive in behind the scenes of what makes a great villain, from Count Olaf to Gru plus Kate and Jol's own line up of bumbling baddies.

## **Will Kostakis**

**The Ups and Downs of Being Personal | Years 9–12**

**11:30am–12:30pm, Thursday  
11 May, slq Auditorium 2**

**11:30am–12:30pm, Friday  
12 May, slq Auditorium 2**

We love it when singers and writers tell us their latest work is their 'most personal yet'. It often means it's their best. But we rarely talk about the toll of being personal. Equal parts frank and funny, Will Kostakis shares the joys and tortures of writing from the heart. It's a great presentation. His most personal yet.

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## **Kathryn Apel & Renée Tremblay**

**The Bird in the Herd:  
Shaping an Australian  
Farm Story | Prep–Year 3**

**10am–11am, Friday 12 May,  
slq Auditorium 2**

Share an interactive reading of a rollicking rhyming story about the bird in the herd, then see how Kat's rural experiences shaped the story—and how Renée sees shapes in... everything!

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## **Nova Weetman**

**Storytelling from Television  
to Books | Years 7–8**

**10am–11am, Friday 12 May,  
slq The Edge**

**Storytelling from Television  
to Books | Years 9–12**

**1pm–2pm, Friday 12 May,  
slq The Edge**

Join Nova as she talks about her path to publication through

the land of television. She discusses how she starts with characters, struggles with plotting and writes books that are very firmly set in contemporary Australia. Nova demonstrates how starting with character can generate story and shows character creation for her books.

## **Amelia Mellor**

**Solving the Plot  
Puzzle | Years 7–8**

**1pm–2pm, Friday 12 May,  
slq Auditorium 2**

How do you write an ending?  
Why doesn't everyone always  
live happily ever after? Can a

story be exciting if it has no  
explosions? Knowing how  
to finish a story is one of the  
most difficult problems a  
writer of fiction must face.  
Amelia Mellor is here to guide  
aspiring writers through it.

## **Renée Tremblé**

**Unravelling the Mysteries of  
Visual Storytelling | Years 4–6**

**1pm–2pm, Friday 12 May,  
slq Auditorium 1**

Join Renée Tremblé, author  
and illustrator of the Sherlock  
Bones graphic novel series, to  
learn the tricks and secrets to  
creating illustrations that tell a  
great story.

## **Microfiction Competition**

Presented in partnership with **The University of Queensland**

Calling young writers! BWF and UQ present the annual  
schools' microfiction competition, open to Queensland-based  
students. The 2023 prompt is...

### **The Unknown**

You are invited to respond to the prompt in no more than 120  
words, using any written format (verse/prose). Shortlisted  
entrants will be invited to present a reading of their microfiction  
at the awards ceremony at the Festival. The winner will receive  
a book pack for your school and a cash prize, \$1,000 for the  
senior category and \$500 for the junior category.

To enter, visit **[bwf.org.au/microfiction](http://bwf.org.au/microfiction)**.

### **Microfiction Readings & Announcement Ceremony**

**4pm–5pm, Thursday 11 May, slq Queensland Terrace**

All are welcome for the announcement ceremony featuring  
readings of shortlisted and winning entries, presented by  
guest judge, middle grade and YA author, Will Kostakis.

Explore the State Library while you're visiting for Word Play.  
Check out the State Library School Visits page for more  
information on self-guided tours, treasure hunts, or booking  
a class study space for use between sessions.

**[slq.qld.gov.au/school-visits](http://slq.qld.gov.au/school-visits)**

# Attending

## Information for Parents and Teachers

### Session formats

Word Play presents children's authors in talks tailored to their age group and stage of learning. Students have the opportunity to engage directly with authors during Q&A, and after the session meet the writers to have their books signed.

### Buying books

Students are able to purchase their favourite Festival titles on-site at the Library Shop or online at **[shop.slq.qld.gov.au](http://shop.slq.qld.gov.au)**.

### No backpacks please!

All large school bags must be left on the bus. We suggest bringing a small tote bag instead. A cloakroom is available for lunch boxes only. BWF is not responsible for any loss or damage to property brought on-site.

### What to bring

Students should bring a small tote bag, notebook, and a pen or pencil. Some sessions involve writing and drawing activities.

### What's for lunch?

There will be half an hour between each session for students to have lunch. Students are encouraged to bring their own food and drinks. Bubblers are located on-site for water and bottle refills.

Food and drinks may be purchased from The Library Café, but cannot be consumed within the State Library of Queensland.

### Photography

BWF photographers will be on-site throughout Word Play to capture proceedings. These photos may be used in BWF marketing material. The purchase of a ticket implies permission for photos to be used for these purposes.

### Need help?

Look for a volunteer with a yellow BWF lanyard if you need help on-site.

For further information please visit **[bwf.org.au](http://bwf.org.au)**.

### While you're here

Explore the State Library while you're visiting for Word Play. Check out the State Library School Visits page for more information on self-guided tours, treasure hunts, or booking a class study space for use between sessions.

**[slq.qld.gov.au/school-visits](http://slq.qld.gov.au/school-visits)**

# Word Play Online

## **Reece Carter**

**In conversation with  
Sarah Armstrong**

**Crafting Spooky Characters |  
Years 4–8**

Learn how to create memorable heroes and terrible villains from scratch with Reece Carter, author of *A Girl Called Corpse*. Alongside Sarah Armstrong, Reece shares his secret recipe for developing spooky characters and guides you through an activity to create one of your own. Reece and Sarah reveal why strong characters are the foundation of great stories, then share some tips and tricks for writing exciting and engaging action for your own character.

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## **Allison Tait**

**Finding Your Writing  
Superpower | Years 7–8**

Everyone has a writing superpower, what's yours? In this fun, inspiring and motivating session, A.L. Tait helps you work out the strengths in your writing—and how to use them to create amazing stories. Drawing on her own work, she offers tips on everything from description to plotting, finding ideas to editing.

## **Graci Kim**

**Curiosity, Play and  
Resilience | Years 7–8**

New York Times bestselling author Graci Kim talks about her journey of learning 'CPR' (AKA creativity, play, and resilience) and how it's led her to live some of her most exciting lives: diplomat, soft toy entrepreneur, cooking show host, and of course, author.

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## **Chaz Hayden**

**Be Different. Leave a  
Trail. | Years 9–12**

YA author Chaz Hayden's novel, *The First Thing About You* is a work of fiction with lived experience woven throughout. It is a story about what does—and doesn't—define you as a person. Chaz was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy at a young age, loves sport, chicken nuggets, telling stories and writing them down. Join him for a conversation about writing, life and everything in between as he encourages young adults to be different and leave a trail.

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## **George Ivanoff**

**Surviving the Survival  
Guides | Years 4–8**

The world is full of weird supernatural stuff (or is it?). The human body is really gross (but also fascinating). And Australia is trying to kill you (maybe). Find out how George

**Word Play Online** sessions are available on-demand at [bwf.org.au](http://bwf.org.au) from 10 May to 8 December 2023.

The Word Play Online program is curated by **Megan Daley**.

went about researching and writing his *Survival Guide* series.

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## **Tony Flowers**

**In conversation with  
Megan Daley**

**Writing in Pictures | Years 4–6**

Join Tony Flowers and Megan Daley in conversation, while they explore visual literacy and the process of writing stories in pictures. Through Tony's recent works we will look at innovation and creativity in publishing and how to take your stories to the world stage.

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## **Sami Bayly**

**Explore Strange Deep-Sea  
Animals and Awesome Art  
Activities | Years 1–8**

Join Sami in a fun, action-packed workshop where she will combine two awesome topics: deep sea animals and art! Learn all you need to know about what lives below the ocean's surface and why they have evolved to look the ways they do (even if it's pink and blobby). Partake in noun quizzes, step-by-step drawing tutorials, plus a bonus drawing challenge that will be perfect for those kids with wild and creative imaginations. So bring your pencils (and submarines) and get ready to dive into the deep!

## **Sarah Ayoub**

**In conversation with  
Sarah Armstrong**

**Digging Deeply into People  
and Place | Years 9–12**

Sarah Ayoub is a journalist, academic, and best-selling author of YA and picture books. She is an advocate for education and Australian stories and will be in conversation about her writing with author and interviewer Sarah Armstrong.

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## **Michael Wagner**

**Instant Plot Machine  
| Years 4–6**

This is a fun workshop during which students discover exactly what a story is, and how to use this knowledge to quickly turn any idea (or prompt) into a plot. In just a few minutes, students will be able to plan their stories and ensure they always have a quality, satisfying ending.

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## **But wait, there's more!**

The Word Play Online program is jam-packed with workshops, presentations, and interviews — head to [bwf.org.au/wordplayonline](http://bwf.org.au/wordplayonline) for details on additional sessions from **Andy Geppert, Adam Goodes and Ellie Lang, Jane Godwin, Lili Wilkinson, Bronwyn Bancroft, Suzanne Leal, Mark Greenwood, Charlotte Barkla, and Remy Lai**.



# Tickets

Please have tickets ready to present at the door, either printed or on a mobile device.

## Tickets on sale 15 March 2023

Word Play tickets are available for purchase online at **bwf.org.au**. Tickets sell quickly, so book early to secure a place for your students.

## Ticket prices

### Word Play

**Early Bird (15–31 March): \$8** per person

**Regular: \$10** per person

School groups receive one complimentary teacher ticket per 15 student tickets. Call **07 3216 0694** for large bookings.

Please note that there is no allocated seating. Please advise any accessibility requirements at the time of booking.

## Word Play Online

**Family:** \$40 subscription

**Schools under 100 students:** \$50 subscription

**Schools 100 – 500 students:** \$80 subscription

**Schools over 500 students:** \$110 subscription

**Individual session downloads:** \$18 per class, \$10 per family

Subscriptions run from Term 2 to Term 4, 2023.

**Please note:** family tickets cannot be projected or watched on multiple devices at once.

## How to make a booking

**Step 1:** Select your sessions based on the relevant age groups or area of interest for your students.

**Step 2:** Visit **bwf.org.au** to purchase your tickets online, or call **07 3216 0694** to book over the phone.

**Step 3:** Check you have received your booking confirmation and tickets via email.

**Terms & Conditions:** Brisbane Writers Festival reserves the right to alter the program and artists and cancel sessions where necessary. No refunds or exchanges are possible once bookings are complete and payment received unless BWF has cancelled your session. Program details are correct at the time of printing; for the most up-to-date program details, visit the website.

**Book now! [bwf.org.au](https://bwf.org.au)**