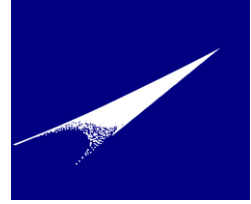


Western Australian Institute for Educational Research

<http://www.waier.org.au>

ABN: 20 438 800 399



WAIER 2017 RESEARCH SEMINAR PROGRAM

VENUE: Curtin University - Room: 501.201:CT

Afternoon tea: 4.00pm -4.30pm

Presentation: 4.30pm – 5.30pm with the remaining time for Question and Answer/Feedback

Babbling Beasts and Where to Find Them

Date: Wednesday 19 July 2017, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Presenter: Ms Melanie Hobbs

"I heard him say he liked to put animals in his stories because it made the humans look worse."

Ceridwen Dovey, Only the Animals.

We tend to think of stories of talking animals as belonging to the realm of children's literature, however several contemporary writers of literature are experimenting with the animal voice for a variety of purposes; moral, satirical and subversive. By familiarising ourselves with these writers, we are better able to engage students in the analysis and creation of imaginative texts. By reading stories about talking animals and experimenting with animal narrators in their writing, students gain a keen awareness of point of view, voice and perspective; concepts which feature in the upper school English courses. The evolution of the talking animal story also makes for an interesting lesson on the relationship between context and meaning. In this presentation, Melanie will provide an overview of the history of the talking animal story, examples of texts with anthropomorphic narrators, details about her research on the link between canine narrators and themes of death in contemporary writing, as well as practical strategies and resources to use with English classes from Year 7 to 12 (with special emphasis on the Year 11 and 12 ATAR English course).

Professional Profile

Melanie Hobbs is a teacher of English who has worked in public schools in the country and metropolitan area for over eight years. She recently completed a Master of Curriculum Studies degree at the University of Western Australia. Melanie currently teaches English at Darling Range Sports College and lives in the Perth Hills area with her husband and their cheeky dog.

RSVP Michelle Murphy: Michelle.Murphy@education.wa.edu.au for catering purposes.

Check <http://waier.org.au/events?c=seminars> for details.

This seminar is generously sponsored by Teachers' Mutual Bank.

