

Stephanie Tolan...

In New Zealand, March-April 2008!

Your opportunity to hear Stephanie Tolan!

Stephanie will be giving workshops in Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland

Workshops for:

Parents of gifted learners

Teachers at any level who have **gifted learners** in their classrooms

Teachers of English language and literature, of creative writing, and children's librarians

Gifted young writers, intermediate and high school age

Stephanie Tolan is an educational psychologist and one of the world's "greats" in gifted education and a prize-winning novelist for young people. She's also the author of fiction for older children and teens – compelling and unusual stories which explore the sensitivities of adolescence, especially that of the gifted adolescent. Her literary awards for these books are too numerous to mention, but include some of the most prestigious America has to offer, such as the Christopher Medal and the Newbery Honor Book Award.

For years, Stephanie's sensitive insights have helped shape our understanding of the complex emotional, social and ethical development of the gifted child.

One of her first achievements, the text *Guiding the Gifted Child: A Practical Source for Parents and Teachers*, which she co-edited with Betty Meckstroth and James Webb, won the American Psychological Association's National Media Award on its first publication and is still widely used and still regarded as one of the best books ever written on this subject. Her powerful and delightful article "Is It A Cheetah?" has been translated into over 40 languages and continues to be hugely influential in helping parents, teachers and policymakers worldwide to grasp the different attributes of gifted children and their need for specific provisions. A whole raft of other articles range widely across almost every aspect of the gifted child's development right through from early childhood to adulthood. A trip to her website is fascinating indeed!

(You can read "Is It A Cheetah?" on this website on the "Articles" page or to see her other material, visit Stephanie's own website on www.stephanietolan.com – make sure you have at least an hour to spare! Gifted students may also enjoy reading "Is It A Cheetah?")

This is an exceptional opportunity to hear and work with an expert who knows giftedness "from the inside" – a leader in the field who, most unusually, combines authoritative academic knowledge with the insights of a creative novelist.

A special note for teachers

We need your support in contacting gifted young writers who could benefit from working with an author of Stephanie Tolan's calibre. They should be students whose creative writing in any medium has shown exceptional imagination, perception and sensitivity in the use of language and who respond positively to the thought that creative writing could, should or will be an ongoing part of their adult lives. If you have a student like this in your class, please draw their attention to this workshop and encourage them to apply. Note that they will need your signature on their enrolment note or an email from you to us confirming that writing is a special strength for them. If you think costs might be a problem, we hope you'll be able to talk to your school management about the possibility of some assistance with this. Thank you!

VENUES

Christchurch: All workshops will be in the Wheki Building in the former Christchurch College of Education (now integrated with the University of Canterbury), in Dovedale Avenue.

Wellington: The open workshop for all teachers will be at the Mana Education Centre in Porirua.

NB Note that this workshop on Monday 31 March has now been extended to a full day. The workshop for GKP GiftNet teachers will be at the Silverstream Retreat and will now be on Tuesday 1st April – Anna Meuli will be in touch with you about this.

Auckland: All workshops will be at Kohia Terrace School (the old Kohia Teachers' Centre for those of you who remember that far back!), behind the former Auckland College of Education (now integrated with the University of Auckland).

- Note that workshop times have been set to take into account traffic conditions.

[1] Parents:

Raising Your Gifted Child: What's Your Story?

There is no question that gifted children have different needs than more average kids—social, emotional, academic, to name a few. Our first parenting task is to recognize those needs (which sometimes requires us to rethink our own). After that we are faced with the challenge of meeting these needs in a world that isn't set up to do that for us. Our goal must be to empower our children from within. This session will deal with ways to do this.

Christchurch: 2-4 pm Saturday 29 March

Auckland: 2-4 pm Saturday 5 April

Fee: \$15 (GST incl.)

[2] Teachers with gifted learners in their classrooms or groups:

Who Are the Gifted and What Do They Need From Us?

This workshop will explore the powerful differences that gifted children bring into our classrooms, our libraries, and our families and will address ways to meet the wide-ranging needs those differences create, from academic through social and emotional. When our world is full of cages, how can we find ways to allow the "cheetahs" among us some room to run?

Christchurch: 9.45-3.30 Friday 28 March

Wellington: 9.45-3.30 Monday 31 March

Auckland: 9.45-3.30 Friday 4 April

***** Times have been set to take into account traffic conditions**

Fee: \$155 + GST (= \$174.37) (lunch & morning tea included)

Plus: GKP network schools only: Wellington: Tuesday 1 April:— your GKP coordinator will contact you re cost & other details.

[3] Teachers of English language & literature, creative writing, and children's librarians:

Books, Stories, and The Power of Imagination.

Einstein said that imagination is more important than knowledge. The human capacity to turn little black marks on paper into whole worlds, living characters, and infinitely varied stories feels like magic—a magic founded on the power of imagination. In this workshop we will deal with language, literature, and creative writing as expressions of what may be humanity's most critical mental capacity. As a person who has spent a lifetime dealing with imagination and writing, Stephanie Tolan will offer a view from the inside about ways to support children's exploration and development of this essential mental power.

Christchurch: 1.30-4.30 Thursday 27 March
Auckland: 1.30-4.30 Thursday 3 April
Fee: \$90 + GST (= \$101.25) (afternoon tea included)

[4] Students who are gifted creative writers and attending intermediate or high school

Accessing the Magic of Your Imagination

Reading and writing stories takes us into the world of our imagination—a magical world where whole worlds and real people emerge from nothing and take form on the screen or printed page. In this workshop we'll explore the ups and downs of the creative process and share our experiences. At the same time we will do our best to remember that whatever the reason we choose to write and whatever the desired outcome, no matter how passionate and serious our intention, creating is closely related to play. Keeping this in mind, even when one hits the wall of "writer's block," can provide us a way around it.

Christchurch: 9-12 Thursday 27 March
Auckland: 9-12 Saturday 5 April
Fee: \$45 (GST incl.) (morning tea included)

A special note for students

This workshop is for you if you know that creative writing is your real strength and if you believe that writing will always be part of your life even when you are an adult – if you believe that one day you will be a published author or poet or playwright, even if you haven't told anyone else that that's what you hope. Stephanie Tolan believed from the age of nine that she would become a writer, so she understands exactly how you feel.

Please note: With your booking note we would like you to send us:

[a] One example of your writing (it can be in any medium but should not be more than three pages long). You can email this to us or post it – remember to make sure your name is on it and also your age at the time you wrote it.

[b] A note from a teacher at your school who knows your writing (or from your tutor or parent if you are being home-schooled) and who can confirm that your creative writing shows real ability in other work as well as in the piece you send us.

[c] To allow us time to assess your work, we need to receive it **at least two weeks before** the date of your workshop, ie, no later than March 13 if you are applying for the Christchurch workshop or March 22 for the Auckland workshop.

Places in this workshop will be very limited, so, in case we have to make choices, it is vitally important that you include these two items and get them to us on time! ☺☺☺

HOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE & HOW TO PAY

ALL workshops:

- You can book either by email or by post
 - Email: reacheducation@xtra.co.nz
 - Post: REACH Education
10 B Parawai Rd
Ngongotaha
ROTORUA.

- Your booking note must include the following information:
 1. The name of the workshop you wish to attend
 2. The city where you will be attending (Christchurch, Wellington or Auckland)
 3. Your name
 4. Your postal address
 5. Your contact phone number
 6. Teachers & librarians only: the name and address of your employing institution
 7. Students only: note from your teacher/work sample as explained above.

NOTE:

- **Bookings for teacher and parent workshops close three days before the date of the workshop involved or sooner if all places filled.**
- **Bookings for student workshops close two weeks before the date of the workshop involved (March 13 and 22 respectively).**

Payment

- All cheques should be crossed and made out to REACH Education, and should be sent to REACH Education at the address given above.

- **Parents:** You may either pay at the door or, if you prefer, send a cheque in advance. Receipts will be issued for all cheques received. If you pay in advance, please bring your receipt with you to speed proceedings for entry.

- **Teachers & librarians:**
 - If your institution is paying: please *either* enclose their cheque with your booking note *or* state on your booking note that you require us to invoice them.
 - If you are paying for yourself: please *either* enclose your cheque with your booking note if you are booking by post, *or*, if you are booking by email to ensure your place, please forward your cheque by post. Receipts will be issued for all cheques received.

- **Students:** Please do NOT forward a cheque until you have received confirmation from us that you actually have a place in this workshop. We will contact you about this as quickly as possible after the closing date.