

# “A Guide to Fantasy”

presented by Bevan McGuiness

AUTHOR

Bevan McGuiness is a native of Western Australia and has spent most of his life in and around Perth. He is married with a daughter. Bevan graduated from the University of WA with a Science Degree majoring in Physics and then spent two years working as a Geophysicist for an international contracting firm. This meant he spent much of those years in various remote places in Australia carrying heavy equipment around and digging holes in the ground looking for interesting rocks. Finally tiring of that, he went back to University to earn a Post Graduate Diploma in Education. He has been teaching ever since, currently working at a private boys' school.

Bevan started writing in the 1990's when he was told by friends to write down some of his school anecdotes. These slowly grew into a novel *Teaching Daedalus* (available from BeWrite books on [www.bewrite.net](http://www.bewrite.net)). With the stunning lack of success that produced, he was encouraged to write a fantasy novel, which met with even less success, but after that rejection, he wrote *The Awakening* which is doing much better.

*The Awakening* was the result of an attempt to write a 100 word story which simply got out of hand. Bevan is currently working on a new trilogy set in an entirely new setting.

Fantasy is a large and growing genre, increasingly popular among high school students. Recent phenomena such as the Harry Potter series and the Lord of the Rings movies have captured the public imagination catapulting the genre onto the public awareness as never before.

But what exactly is Fantasy? What are the strictures of the genre? What are the types of Fantasy? How is a Fantasy story structured? And why is Fantasy always in a series – usually a trilogy?

In this session, Bevan will walk you through the genre, taking you on an illustrated tour of this popular and widely misunderstood genre. Using such classics as Conan and Lord of the Rings, he will introduce you to the Hero's Quest, role playing games (RPG), the place of the spoon in literature, why 'adult fantasy' does not always mean what you might think, and other burning issues of Fantasy.

Bring your preconceptions, sense of humour and allow your imagination to take flight as you explore the fun that is modern fantasy.