

# One for the Books: Using Picture Books to Encourage Creativity

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“The single best way to nurture creativity in anyone may be to recognize it and value it.”

--(Cramond and Connell, 2009)

# Creative Thinking Warm-Up

- “Mash-Up”- Have the students each jot down three to five random nouns (spider, basketball, etc.) on a small piece of paper. Collect the paper pieces, shuffle them up, then hand each student back two slips of paper. Their job is to mash-up the two words by finding some way they connect. Share in small groups or whole class. More time? Collect, reshuffle, and repeat!

# Why Creativity?

- Benefits of Creative Activities:
  - Creative thinking promotes self-actualization
  - Children learn to think independently when engaged in creative tasks
  - Creative activities can be an emotional release for some students
  - Creative Problem Solving encourages collaboration and higher-level thinking skills
  - Creative expression can allow for better mental health and can be helpful during hardship
  - The constantly evolving job market requires employees who are flexible and can generate a variety of ideas
  - Creativity is needed for global economic competition

# Components of Creativity

## Fluency

- Generating a lot of ideas
- The more ideas you come up, the more creative your ideas get
- Make a list of things that are red

## Flexibility

- Generating a variety of ideas, in different categories and from a different point of view
- How many different ways can you group animals that you would find in a zoo?
- An umbrella is usually used to keep rain off of you. How else could you use an umbrella?

# Components of Creativity

## Originality

- coming up with new and unique ideas that no one else has had
- Invent a new kind of ice cream. Give it a name, list the ingredients, and decide how it tastes.
- Write an original ending to your favorite fairy tale.

## Elaboration

- Expanding on your ideas by adding a lot of details
- Draw a basic house on your paper. Now add details to and around the house to make it tell an interesting story
- Start with the sentence, "The dog ran." Now, continue to make the sentence more complex by adding more details.

# Other Characteristics to Focus on

- Risk-Taking
- Perseverance
- Being Unique
- Using Your Imagination
- Inventions
- Creative Problem Solving

# Using Books to Encourage Creativity

- Use as examples of creativity- allow the students to see how the author uses creativity and what characteristics they can imitate
- Use as a jumping board for more creative ideas- the kids can piggyback off the ideas presented in the book
- Use as bibliotherapy lessons- engage the students in conversations about the book's theme, hitting on the more challenging aspects of creativity

# Example

- Rosie Revere, Engineer

- Andrea Beaty

- “Rosie may seem quiet during the day, but at night she's a brilliant inventor of gizmos and gadgets who dreams of becoming a great engineer. When her great-great-aunt Rose (Rosie the Riveter) comes for a visit and mentions her one unfinished goal--to fly--Rosie sets to work building a contraption to make her aunt's dream come true. But when her contraption doesn't fly but rather hovers for a moment and then crashes, Rosie deems the invention a failure. On the contrary, Aunt Rose insists that Rosie's contraption was a raging success. You can only truly fail, she explains, if you quit.”

- (Amazon.com)

- Perseverance, Problem Solving, Flexibility

# Let's Brainstorm Some Ideas!

- Take some time to explore the picture books.
- How do you think they could be used to encourage creative thinking in your students?
- What kind of lessons can you use the books for?
- Document full of example lessons you can do with your class right away!

"It takes courage to be creative. Just as soon as you have a new idea, you are a minority of one."

--E. Paul Torrance

# Questions?

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Thank You!