One for the Books: Using Picture Books to Encourage Creativity

Katie Hunter and Megan Chambers
Hall County Schools
“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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fluency</th>
<th>Flexibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Generating a lot of ideas</td>
<td>• Generating a variety of ideas, in different categories and from a different point of view</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The more ideas you come up,</td>
<td>• How many different ways can you group animals that you would find in a zoo?</td>
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<tr>
<td>the more creative your ideas</td>
<td>• An umbrella is usually used to keep rain off of you. How else could you use an umbrella?</td>
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<tr>
<td>get</td>
<td></td>
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<td>• Make a list of things that are red</td>
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## Components of Creativity

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<th>Elaboration</th>
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<td>• coming up with new and unique ideas that no one else has had</td>
<td>• Expanding on your ideas by adding a lot of details</td>
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<td>• Invent a new kind of ice cream. Give it a name, list the ingredients, and decide how it tastes.</td>
<td>• Draw a basic house on your paper. Now add details to and around the house to make it tell an interesting story</td>
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<td>• Write an original ending to your favorite fairy tale.</td>
<td>• Start with the sentence, “The dog ran.” Now, continue to make the sentence more complex by adding more details.</td>
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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?

• Katie Hunter
  – Katie.Hunter@Hallco.org

• Megan Chambers
  – Megan.Chambers@Hallco.org
References


• Websites Consulted:
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