



**MIGHTY MINDS**  
Educational Consultants

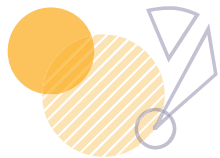
[www.mightyminds.com.au](http://www.mightyminds.com.au)

**MM Internal Use**

**Creative & Critical Thinking  
Extension Program**

**Unit 1: Am I Creative?**





# FOR THE TEACHERS

## Item Description

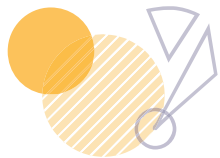
*Please note: any activity that is not completed during class time may be set for homework or undertaken at a later date.*

### ‘Unit One: Am I Creative?’

#### • Activity Description:

- In Unit One, students are introduced to basic theory regarding creativity—what it is, why they need it and what it looks like. They are then required to complete three activities: a free writing activity, an idea box activity and an exquisite corpse activity. As with all other units in this Creative and Critical Thinking Workshop series, the lesson begins with a short brainteaser and ends with a short series of lateral thinking exercises.
  - In Activity One, “Free Writing”, students are required to write freely (without restrictions) on the topic of superheroes.
  - In Activity Two, “Idea Box”, students are required brainstorm the key components needed to write a narrative (e.g. a protagonist, a setting, a conflict/resolution and so on). They are then asked to brainstorm different ideas for each of the components and share their ideas with their peers. They then must create various combinations of their ideas and share their favourites with their peers. Finally, they must draw a comic that illustrates their favourite combination with a partner.
  - In Activity Three, “Exquisite Corpse”, students are required to draw three different sections of a creature of their choice (its head, torso and legs). They are then required to repeat the process in groups of three by allocating a particular section to each person. Before passing the completed section to the next person for them to add to or complete, the student must first fold over their part of the drawing so that what they have drawn is not visible. Each student is then required to reflect upon their experience.
- **Purpose of Activity:**
  - The purpose of this lesson is to encourage students to develop confidence in their own creative abilities and to give them an opportunity to explore different creative avenues.
- **KLAs:**
  - English
  - Mathematics
- **CCEs:**
  - Sketching/ drawing (π60)
  - Setting out/ presenting/ arranging/ displaying (π20)
  - Compiling lists/ statistics (α12)

*This Item Description is continued on the next page...*



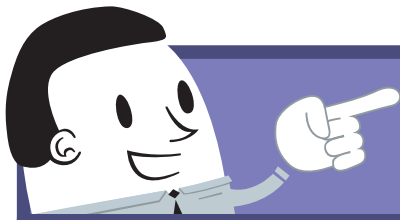
# FOR THE TEACHERS

## Item Description – continued

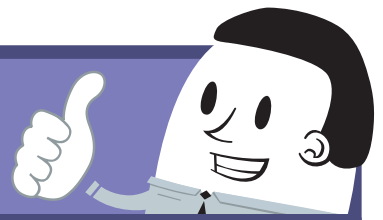
...This Item Description is continued from the previous page.

### ‘Unit One: Am I Creative?’

- **CCEs (cont’d)**
  - Justifying (θ48)
  - Structuring/ organising extended written text (β21)
  - Using vocabulary appropriate to a context (π10)
  - Using correct spelling, punctuation, grammar (π9)
- **Suggested Time Allocation:**
  - This lesson is designed to take approximately one hour to complete – 20 minutes per activity.
- **Teaching Notes:**
  - Throughout this unit, students should be encouraged to be as creative as possible. They should be reminded that creativity comes in all forms and that there are no wrong answers when it comes to creativity (as long as it can be properly and reasonably explained).
  - The students will need coloured pencils to complete two elements within this lesson: the Idea Box comic and the illustrations in the Exquisite Corpse activity.
    - In Activity One, ensure that students understand that they can write about whatever they want, as long as it is related to the topic of superheroes in some way. They should be reminded that for this activity, using proper spelling, grammar and punctuation is not a priority. Instead students should be focusing on generating and developing as many ideas as possible.
    - In Activity Two, the students may need to be prompted to think outside of the box when it comes to possible ideas for each of their components. If so, teachers should make random and wacky suggestions to the students to help kick-start their thinking (e.g. a science professor with butterfly wings and feelers, a swap where the water is boiling chocolate and the grass is fairy floss).
    - In Activity Three, students may need to be prompted as to what to draw in each of their given sections. If so, provide students with a list of examples prior to starting the activity (e.g. Head Section: Eyes, Nose, Mouth, Ears, Eyebrows; Torso Section: Arms, Fingers, Fingernails, Elbows, Shoulders, Stomach; Legs Section: Thighs, Knees, Shins, Ankles, Feet, Toes, Toenails, Tail).
- **Follow Up/ Class Discussion Questions:**
  - What do you think “being creative” involves?
  - When were you last creative? What were you doing? Why do you think you were creative?
  - When do you get to be creative at school?
  - Who do you think are examples of famous creative individuals and why?



# Am I Creative?



## Brain teaser

Each word or phrase below is a clue for a word that contains the letters PEN. From the clues given, determine what each word is.

1) To extend downwards.

---

2) An object that uses gravity to swing back and forth. Begins with P.

---

3) An addition to the main body, such as an arm or leg. Begins with A.

---

4) Something that is highly priced or costly.

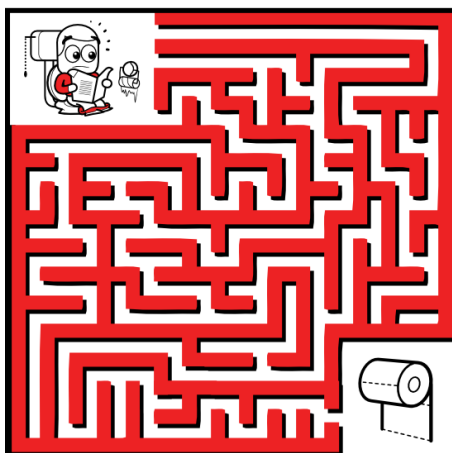
---

5) To take place or occur.

---

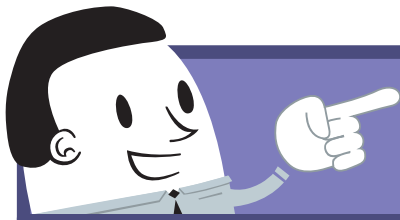
6) Not closed.

---

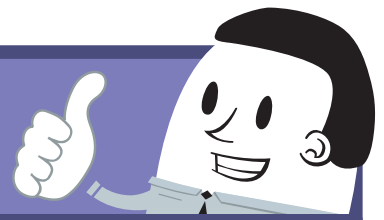


### Maze Challenge!

**Maze Task:** Help this poor little guy reach his toilet paper!



# Am I Creative?



## Creativity

### What is it?

Being creative means using your imagination to generate original ideas when creating something. In order to be creative, you need to be able to think of new ideas, which usually involves thinking about things from a different perspective.

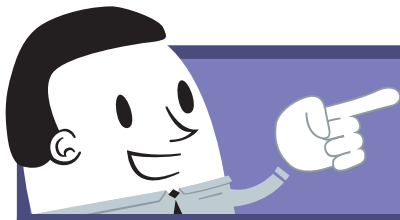
### Why do we need it?

Creativity allows us to evolve in new and exciting ways. It helps us to think outside the box and to come up with innovative ideas that logic may never lead us to. Without creativity we may never have come to know of the likes of Harry Potter, Pablo Picasso or Michael Jackson!

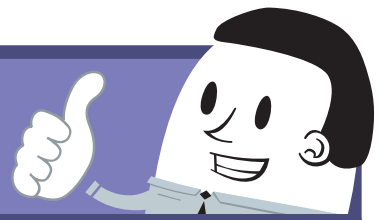
### What does it look like?

The best thing about creativity is that it can look like anything because there are absolutely no rules!





# Am I Creative?

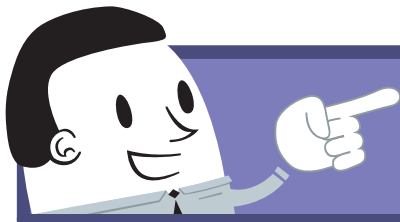


## Free Writing

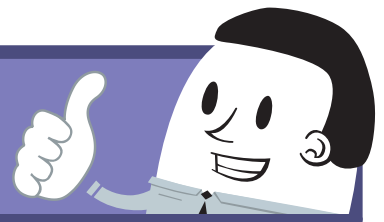
Free writing is a technique used to develop ideas. This strategy essentially allows you to write everything you can about a given topic in a set period of time. In this time, spelling, punctuation and grammar are not to be considered. You should also work for the entire allotted time, without censoring any ideas. Simply write everything that comes to mind and don't stop!







# Am I Creative?



## Idea Box

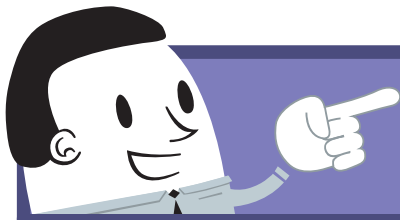
The aim of Idea Box is to break problems into their individual components and then recombine these components in a different way to create new ideas and solutions. This can be done by following the steps below:

1. Identify the key components of the problem or idea. For example, if you were planning a three-course meal, these components would be entrée, main meal and dessert.
2. Formulate as many different options for each component as you can. For example, options for the dessert category could be ice cream, lemon meringue pie, chocolate soufflé and crème brûlée.
3. Pick one or more options from each category and combine these individual components in a way that you may not have thought of before like a chocolate soufflé flavoured ice cream!
4. Analyse the different combinations and decide which one to pursue based on what is appropriate for the situation. For example, you may rule out a combination that includes lemon chicken for the main meal and lemon meringue pie for dessert because they contain a similar core ingredient.

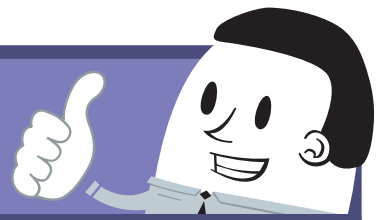
The most important aspect of this technique is to try as many different combinations as possible—the more individual topics listed, the more combinations that will be possible!







# Idea Box



**Creative thinking can be difficult when you're given no boundaries; for example, if you are asked to write a story about anything you like. *While this freedom means you can be very creative, it can also be overwhelming and leave you wondering where to start.***

Q1

Below, list the key components that you need to write a story (for example, a protagonist or setting). Underneath each component, write five possibilities (for example, a princess or a soccer player are both possible protagonists).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Q2

Talk to the people around you and swap some ideas! On the lines below, add some other people's examples to your categories.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

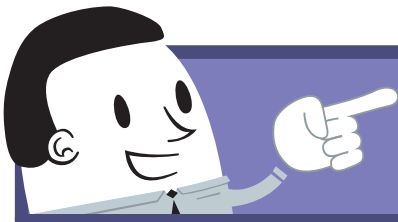
Q3

Cut up a piece of paper into small pieces and write an option for each category on a separate piece. Then, take one piece of paper from each category and combine them. Share your result with the people around you and write your favourite combination below.

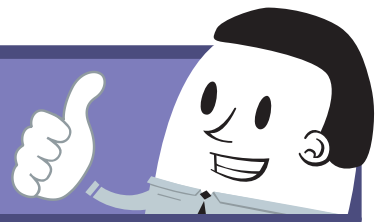


## Tip

The more examples that you can come up with, the more combinations you'll have to choose from!



# Idea Box



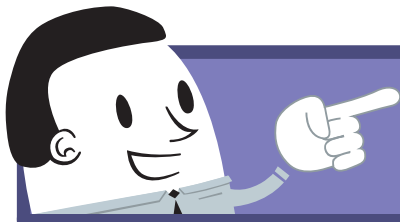
Q4

Of course, creative thinking isn't limited to writing short stories! Make a pair with someone else and choose one of your combinations, then draw a comic using those ideas below. Make sure you write the combination that you're using on the line provided.

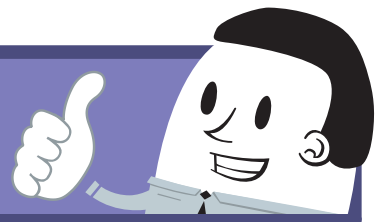



## Tip

If you can't tell the whole story in a few comic strips, just draw a section of it. You don't have to be an artist!



## Am I Creative?



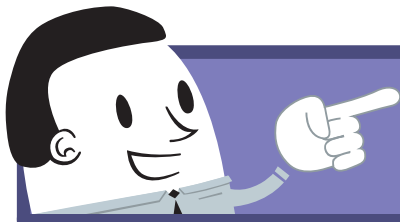
# The Exquisite Corpse

The Exquisite Corpse is a creative technique that relies on a number of individuals working together. The result is numerous different drawings, musical notes or sentences that a group has collected.

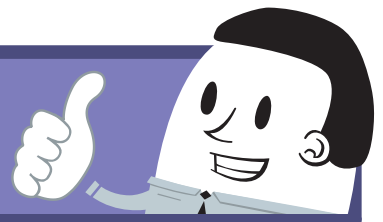
Using sentences as an example, one person writes a sentence before passing it to the next person, who does the same, until everyone in the group has contributed.

The Exquisite Corpse was introduced in a collaborative piece of art. Four artists contributed a piece of a figure to a section of folded paper, without having seen what the other artists had produced. Once they were all complete, the artists opened the piece of paper to view their collective efforts.





# Exquisite Corpse



**Collaborating with others naturally leads to creativity in both art and writing. *This technique was established by Parisian artists!***

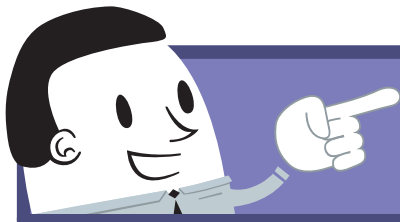
**Q1**

In the box below, draw a creature of some kind. It can be real or made up: the choice is yours. However, you should try to follow the guidelines in each third (for example, the top third should contain only the neck and head).

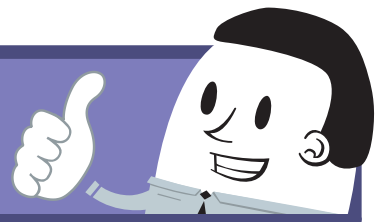
**1 – Neck & Head**

**2 – Torso & Arms**

**3 – Feet & Legs**



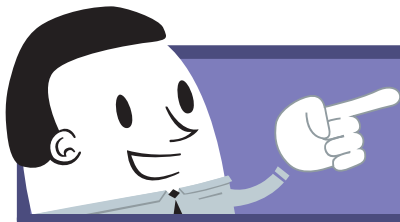
# Exquisite Corpse

**Q2**

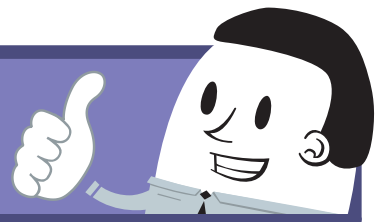
Form groups of three and allocate one third of the picture to each person. Fold the paper over so that the person drawing can't see what the people before them have drawn.

**1 – Neck & Head****2 – Torso & Arms****3 – Feet & Legs****Q3**

Compare your first and second drawings and discuss with your group members how working as a team affected the drawing.



# Am I Creative?



## Lateral Thinking

1

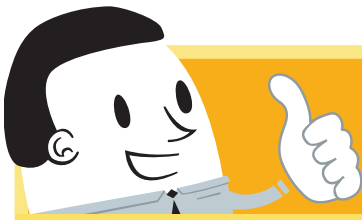
What word is always spelled wrongly?

2

If the day after the day before yesterday was Tuesday, and the day before the day after tomorrow is Thursday, what day is it today?

3

What is the next letter in this sequence: J F M A M J \_?



# Am I Creative?



## Brainteaser

Each word or phrase below is a clue for a word that contains the letters PEN. From the clues given, determine what each word is.

1) To extend downwards.

Deepen

2) An object that uses gravity to swing back and forth. Begins with P.

Pendulum

3) An addition to the main body, such as an arm or leg. Begins with A.

Appendage

4) Something that is highly priced or costly.

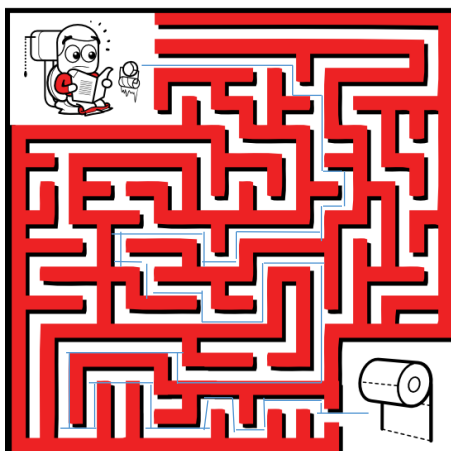
Expensive

5) To take place or occur.

Happen

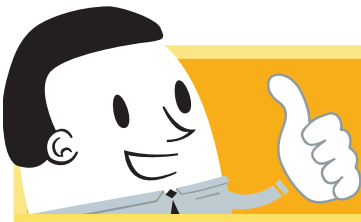
6) Not closed.

Open

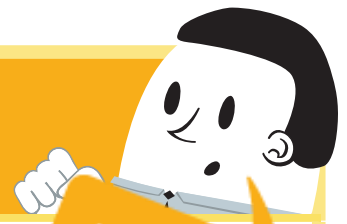


### Maze Challenge!

**Maze Task:** Help this poor little guy reach his toilet paper!



# Free Writing



ANSWERS

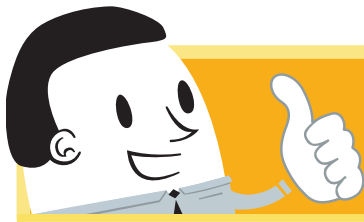
Q1

Discuss superheroes using free writing techniques.

All students will have different responses; some ideas that could be discussed are:

- Different superheroes such as Superman and Batman.
- How different superheroes have evolved over time.
- Super powers and their different advantages.
- Costume design.
- Gender and superheros.
- Etc.





# Idea Box



**Creative thinking can be difficult when you're given no boundaries, you are asked to write a story about anything you like. *While this freedom can be very creative, it can also be overwhelming and leave you wondering where to start.***

Q1

Below, list the key components that you need to write a story (for example, a protagonist or setting). Underneath each component, write five possibilities (for example, a princess or a soccer player are both possible protagonists).

Setting: Beach, castle, school, camping trip, airplane.

Theme: Romance, adventure, mystery, drama, fable (moral message).

Main character(s): a peasant girl, a snobby prince, a spoilt teenager, an angry bear, an adventurous group of friends, fisherman.

Basic plot: getting lost, discovering something, making a big mistake, finding out who your true friends are, growing up.

Q2

Talk to the people around you and swap some ideas! On the lines below, add some other people's examples to your categories.

Setting: Haunted house, farm, the Australian outback.

Main character(s): a typical Australian teenager, a prime minister, a surfer and his mates.

Basic plot: taking the blame, road trip, choosing a new pet, rescue.

Theme: Comedy.

Q3

Cut up a piece of paper into small pieces and write an option for each category on a separate piece. Then, take one piece of paper from each category and combine them. Share your result with the people around you and write your favourite combination below.

Setting: Haunted house

Main character(s): Peasant girl and snobby prince

Basic plot: Rescue

Theme: Adventure



## Tip

The more examples that you can come up with, the more combinations you'll have to choose from!



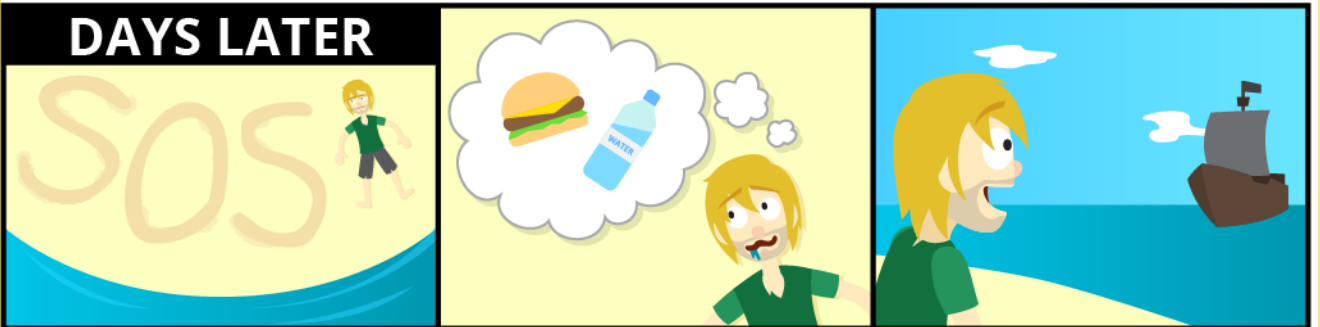
# Idea Box



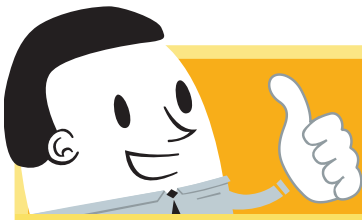
Q4

Of course, creative thinking isn't limited to writing short stories! Make a pair of ideas, one from the 'Idea Box' and one from the 'Answers' box, and choose one of your combinations, then draw a comic using those ideas. Make sure you write the combination that you're using on the line provided.

**Setting:** Beach; **Main character(s):** Fisherman; **Basic plot:** Rescue; **Theme:** Adventure



**Tip**  
If you can't tell the whole story in a few comic strips, just draw a section of it. You don't have to be an artist!



# Exquisite Corpse



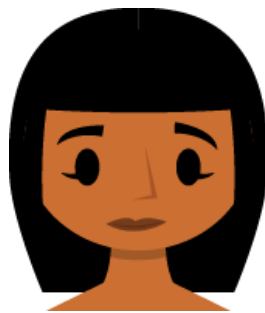
Collaborating with others naturally leads to creativity in both art and writing. This technique was established by Parisian artists!

ANSWERS

Q1

In the box below, draw a creature of some kind. It can be real or made up: the choice is yours. However, you should try to follow the guidelines in each third (for example, the top third should contain only the neck and head).

1 – Neck & Head

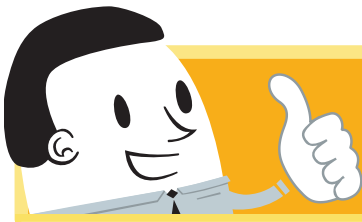


2 – Torso & Arms



3 – Feet & Legs

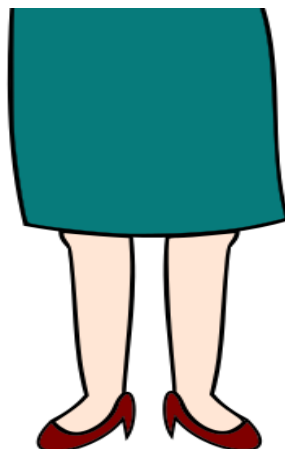




# Exquisite Corpse

**Q2**

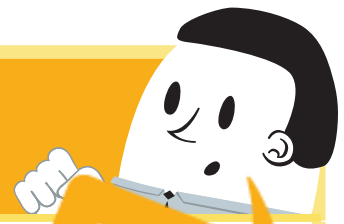
Form groups of three and allocate one third of the picture to each person. Draw over so that the person drawing can't see what the people before them have drawn.

**1 – Neck & Head****2 – Torso & Arms****3 – Feet & Legs****Q3**

Compare your first and second drawings and discuss with your group members how working as a team affected the drawing.



# Am I Creative?



ANSWERS

## Lateral Thinking

1

Wrongly

2

Wednesday.

3

J for July! They are the first letters of the calendar months.