

## CREATIVE Writing!

**Why not** let / encourage / make the children write something creative, something fictional, that is something imaginative?

### Why should we?

- It's fun for the children (more fun than writing informative non-fiction!)
- They will more likely be engaged in the task.
- It's more interesting for others to read - therefore more motivation for them to write.
- It is important for them to be creative and very good for their development.

### Why **don't** we?

Well, maybe:

- The teacher is afraid that the children will be too afraid ('shy'?) to write anything.
- The teacher is afraid that the children will make mistakes.
- The teacher is afraid that this will take children off the track of preparing for all-important exams.
- The teacher feels that it doesn't fit into the curriculum.
- The teacher is worried that the children's writing may not be acceptable or 'moral'.
- The teacher is unsure of how to go about it.

*True??* There are probably more reasons too ... and none of them are insurmountable!

## The COPYCAT culture

The importance of COPYING as the backbone of education is common in Asian cultures - and it makes a lot of sense. Since ancient times, the teacher is the Master and we learn by copying them and imitating their ways. To strike out on our own could be considered arrogant and foolhardy. From this background of copying a Master, many tertiary students struggle with the idea of plagiarism, being unsure when they should try to express their own ideas (or if they should even have ideas of their own).

So, there are two sides to this coin:

- Children showing respect for their teachers in the way Asian children do (and western children commonly don't) is a good thing, and we want to encourage it.
- Children should still be encouraged to think (and write) creatively.

**A skilful, creative teacher (you) can support and guide the children in your care to be the best that they can be.**

## KSSR and Exam Preparation

***What about their exam preparation? What about following the curriculum?***

Won't creative writing take time away from exam preparation?

### ***1. Is creative writing part of KSSR?***

Well, it could (and should) be part of writing and also Language Arts - here is what it says about standards for year 3:

KSSR for year 3 Writing:

3.3.1 Able to create simple texts using a variety of media with guidance :

- (a) non-linear
- (b) linear

***So, yes, they should be creating simple texts - not just copying and re-arranging words and sentences!***

And KSSR FOR year 3 Language Arts

4.3. By the end of the 6-year primary schooling, pupils will be able to plan, organize and produce creative works for enjoyment.

4.3.1 Able to produce simple creative works with guidance based on :

- (a) jazz chants
- (b) poems
- (c) action songs
- (d) stories

So by year 3 they should be able to 'produce' simple creative works.

- **'With guidance'** - teacher guiding and enthusing.
- **'Based on'** ... this is the first step (*see below*) where the children get excited enough about a topic to want to create.

### ***2. How will it affect their exam results if they do creative writing?***

If it improves their

- skills and abilities in English
- confidence in spoken and written English
- enthusiasm for using English

**AND IT WILL**, then *of course* it will *improve* their exam result.

**Teachers can easily become bogged down in teaching children the mechanics of passing the exam, and lose sight of the real purpose of studying English.**