

## **Welcome to Creative Bursts: short creative activities to do at home with your children.**

Creative Bursts are created by Sarah Webb and supported by MoLI – Museum of Literature Ireland.

Sarah Webb is an award-winning children's writer and children's book champion. Her children's books include *A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea*, illustrated by Steve McCarthy which won the Irish Book Awards Junior Category and *Blazing a Trail: Irish Women Who Changed the World*, illustrated by Lauren O'Neill which won the Irish Book Awards Senior Category. Her latest book is *Dare to Dream: Irish People Who Took On the World (and Won!)*, illustrated by Graham Corcoran.

MoLI is committed to youth creativity and alongside the free primary schools tour and workshops programme, we also run Bright Sparks – a series of art and story workshops facilitated by Irish writers and illustrators where families embrace the opportunity to play and create together.

To get lost in a Creative Burst all you need is a pencil or pen and a notebook or piece of paper.

The writing games and prompts are aimed at around age 9+ but could be done with younger children if you give them a bit of help. Also included are more challenging story prompts for older or more experienced writers of around 11+ (every young writer is different).

Remember grown-ups – please join in too! It's great for children to see you being creative, making mistakes and having fun on the page!

## **Today's theme is: A World of Colour**

### **Warm Up**

To get started let's warm up those writing muscles.

You could start by writing this week's quote into your writing notebook, copybook or sheet of paper. You could give it a fancy frame or border if you like!

“And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it.” - Roald Dahl

If you've already got that one in your notebook, how about this one:  
"I prefer living in color." - David Hockney

David Hockney is a modern artist who loves to paint using bright colour.

### **Creative Bursts Challenge #1: What Colour Am I?**

Details are really important in writing – don't say cat, say 'tiny marmalade kitten'. Don't say dog, say 'shaggy sheepdog'. You need to paint pictures with your words.

And it's the same when it comes to describing colours.

What are your favourite colours?

Write them down and use the description to create a 'new' name for that colour, like a paint chip name.

I love the blue of the sky on clear, sunny days.  
So my 'new' colour is: summer-sky blue.

And I also love the shell-like pink of a ballet shoe.  
So my 'new' colour is ballet shoe pink.

Keep these, you will need them later on!

What colours best describe you today?

Are you a mellow yellow, a hot lively red or a thoughtful sage green?

Pick a few different colours and write a short piece or a poem (and remember poems do not have to rhyme), about how you feel today, matching your feelings to different colours.

### **Creative Bursts Challenge #2: Story Prompt**

A girl/boy/ woman/man/fox/tiger (you decide) walked into the room wearing the most extraordinary and colourful hat.

It was... (Describe or draw the hat)

### **Creative Bursts Challenge Number 3 - What is Pink?**

Christina Rossetti was an English writer, born in 1830. She wrote lots of poems for both children and adults. She also wrote the words to the famous Christmas carol 'In the Bleak Midwinter'.

This is her poem about colour:

What is Pink?

By Christina Rossetti

What is pink? a rose is pink  
By the fountain's brink.  
What is red? a poppy's red  
In its barley bed.  
What is blue? the sky is blue  
Where the clouds float thro'.  
What is white? a swan is white  
Sailing in the light.  
What is yellow? pears are yellow,  
Rich and ripe and mellow.  
What is green? the grass is green,  
With small flowers between.  
What is violet? clouds are violet  
In the summer twilight.  
What is orange? why, an orange,  
Just an orange!

Now write your own version of her poem:

What is pink?  
What is red?  
What is blue?  
What is white?  
What is yellow?  
What is green?  
What is violet?  
What is orange?

### **Creative Bursts Challenge #4: Paint Chip Poems**

Paint chips are printed booklets or sheets of sample paint colours that you can get from the hardware shop. They show you the different colours you can paint the walls of your house.

You can make your own home-made 'paint chips' by cutting out squares of colour from magazines or newspapers. Then write the name of the colour on the chip.

Remember the favourite colours you used in challenge 1 – you'll need them for this challenge too.

Now pick three or four of your favourite paint chips and create a poem around them about happiness.

The last line can read:  
That's happiness to me.

Here's an example:

Happiness by Sarah Webb  
(I've put my paint chip colours in bold)

The blue ribbon of a stream  
Leading to the sea.  
I stand in my **debs** dress  
In the golden sand dunes  
Watching the sun rise  
With my best friend.  
That's happiness to me.

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Hope you enjoyed today's Creative Bursts!

And remember what Einstein said: 'Creativity is intelligence having fun.'

Keep writing,  
Sarah

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