

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: Food, Glorious Food!

Favourite writing games and story prompts inspired by food.

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

And here is one for you today:

“You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.” American writer, Maya Angelou

Creative Bursts Challenge #1: What’s Inside the Fridge?

Make a list of all your favourite food.

Now write an ode to your very favourite food. An ode is a poem that praises something.

Like this:

Ode to Cheese
Cheese, glorious cheese,
I love you so much,
You’re so delicious and tasty,
And smooth to the touch.
Edam and Cheddar,
Emmental and Brie,
There are so many cheeses
I love don’t you see!

One of my writing club’s favourite story prompts is this one which always inspires some great ideas:

You open the fridge and there’s something really strange inside.

What is it?
Who put it there?

Or

Write about what the food inside the fridge gets up to when you’ve gone to sleep. Do the carrots play with the broccoli? Do the potatoes set up a ski slope in the freezer compartment?

Creative Bursts Challenge #2: Sarah's Book Café

Have you ever dreamed of running your own café or restaurant?

Now's your chance!

Design your own café or restaurant.

Give it a theme and a name – Sarah's Book Café for example, or Clara's Cat Café, or Hugh's Famous Pizza and Ice-Cream Parlour.

Design a logo, a slogan and pick your staff.

What does it look like inside?

Design an invitation for the opening of the café or restaurant.

Then write about what happens on opening day when an important restaurant critic is due to visit but your oven breaks, your dog eats the special cake you made for the launch and your staff are all off sick.

Who steps in to help you? Who saves the day?

Get writing!

Creative Bursts Challenge #3: The Popcorn Game

Study a piece of popcorn – without using the word popcorn answer the following questions:

What does it look like? A tooth, a cloud, a monster, an octopus – you decide!

Smell like? And what does the smell remind you of?

Feel like? Is the texture smooth or rough? Soft, hard? Describe it.

Sound like? Squeeze it and see if it makes a noise !

Taste like? Pop it in your mouth and describe the taste.

Creative Bursts Challenge #4: The World's Greatest Sandwich and Ice Cream Sundae

Create the world's greatest sandwich – what's in it?

It can be crazy things, or delicious things.

Now create the world's greatest ice cream sundae – again it can be crazy or delicious – you decide!

Extra Challenge:

Make a list of things you'd NEVER eat.

Would you eat snails?

Kangaroo or ostrich steak?

Octopus?

Crickets?

Write a poem about it. Start with the line:

I would never, ever, ever, ever eat...

-

I hope you enjoyed today's Creative Bursts!

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

Keep writing,

Sarah

Text copyright Sarah Webb, 2020