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Be Creative!

Creative writing needs creative thinking. Here are some ways to be a more creative thinker.

1. Ask lots of questions:

- Why do cats meow?
- Why is the earth round?
- How do kites fly?
- Why do telephones ring?
- Who invented music?

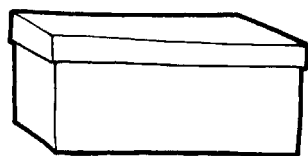
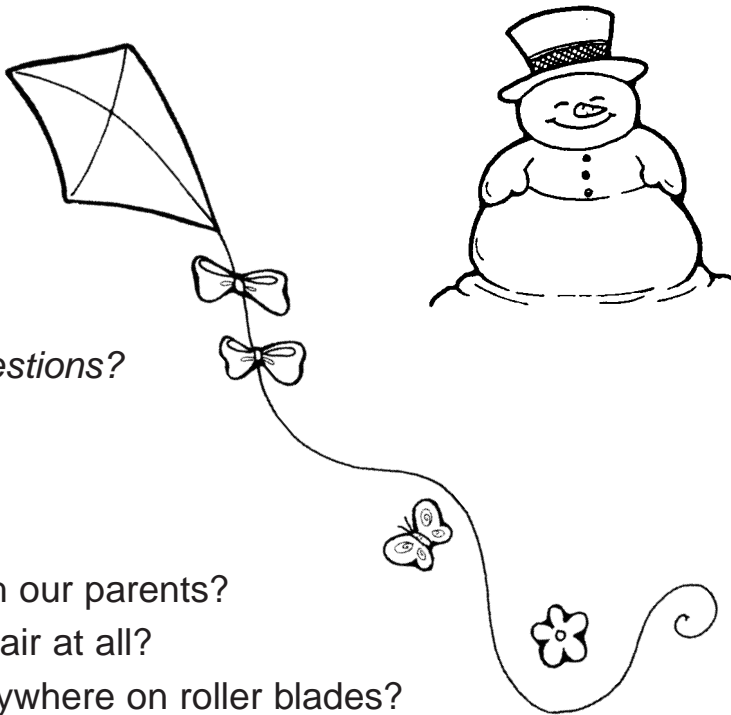
Can you think of five more questions?

2. Ask "what if" questions:

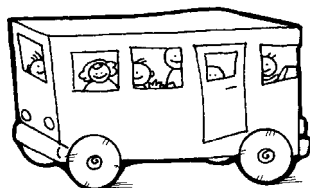
- What if dogs could fly?
- What if snowmen could talk?
- What if we traded places with our parents?
- What if none of us had any hair at all?
- What if we all had to go everywhere on roller blades?

Ask five more "what if" questions.

3. Look at the pictures below. For each one, name as many things as you can think of that you could do with each item. How many can you think of? Just a few? Hundreds? If you want to think of more, try to look at the objects as being whatever size you want and in any position you can imagine. For instance, the box could be a house, a car, a hat, a bed, a dress, a matchbox, a television set, a bus, a building, or a robot if you add a couple of things here and there.



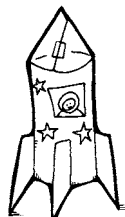
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or



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or



Life Is Like a Banana

When you say, “My brother is a toad!” you have just created a **metaphor**. A metaphor compares one thing to another by saying that the one thing is the other thing. Some more examples are:

- I am a hungry bear today!
- Watch out, she’s a monster!

When you say, “My best friend is as tiny as a mouse,” you have created a **simile**. A simile compares one thing to another by using the words **like** or **as**. Here are some more examples:

- I am as hungry **as** a bear today!
- Watch out, she’s **like** a monster!
- He’s **as** slippery as a seal.



Metaphors and similes are tools to help you make your writing more creative.

Now it’s your turn to practice writing **metaphors**. The first two are examples for you:

- The baby is a wiggly worm.
- His feet were two giant boulders.

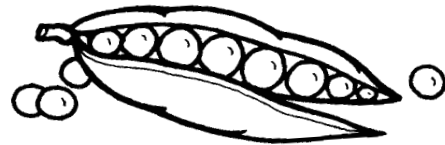
Your hair is _____

My friend is _____

The rain was _____

Now try some **similes**. The first two are examples for you:

- The sun is **as** round **as** an orange.
- The baby’s toes are **like** peas in a pod.



The puppy is _____

My sister is _____

The snow is _____

Challenge: Write a story using at least one metaphor and one simile to describe someone or something.

For Younger Students: Write some examples of similes and metaphors on the board to introduce the concept to students. Then have them brainstorm more and choose their favorites to write on a blank piece of paper and illustrate. These will make an interesting wall display.