

Brain Strain Creative Rhyme Workshop!

- To Suit Year 5/6 Level
- 2 x 1 hour sessions required
- Max class size 40

Author in 'Normal' Mode



Author in 'Brain Strain' Mode



Session 1 – Create the Plot

- Using PowerPoint, Chris will show the group his rhyming style and the how he gets the 'bounce' and rhythm in his stories!
- After determining who wants to be an illustrator or author, each student in the group is given an ID card marked 'author' or 'illustrator'.
- The group is then split into groups of 5 or 6 with a mix of authors and illustrators.



- Each group selects their individual 'lucky dip' item from 3 bags – bag 1 is the setting, bag 2 is a character and bag 3 is a random object. So for example the setting could be in outer-space, the character could be a cow and the random object could be a car. A story about a cow who visits the moon, somehow involving a car!
- Each group will develop a story that needs to include each of their chosen components. The group will then outline a plot, a challenge for the character and a happy resolution with a good outcome (hopefully!)
- The first session ends with each group outlining their story which must include the character, setting and object they selected at the start of the session. Once the stories have all been outlined, a vote will decide on which story is to be used to develop into our rhyming narrative. Each group must vote for another story – not their own!

Session 2 – Turn the story into a whacky rhyming narrative!

- The class is split into two groups; authors and illustrators who will sit on either side of the class.
- The mission is for Chris and the group is to transform the story selected at the end of the first session into a rhyming narrative. In the case of the example we might end up with the cow's car floating into space and how he or she gets it back! While Chris and the authors are putting the rhyming story together, the illustrators are drawing scene and/or a storyboard based on the story. This is going to be a wonderful challenge for us all and really brings out the creativity and an insight into the challenges of writing in rhyme where you have to tell the story, maintaining the rhyme and rhythm. It will be a lot of fun, highly engaging and is guaranteed to bring out the creativity in the participants! This workshop can be applied to high school level and adult groups as well.
- The session will end with a group photo with the story and characters in the background. Time permitting; we will all let our hair a bit by down singing and dancing to a song from one of Chris' books.
- Students keep their ID cards which will be signed by the author.

(Example of Student Worksheet Page 1)

Chris Collin Author/Presenter

BRAIN STRAIN CREATIVE RHYME WORKSHOP

PART 1 (1st session) - STORYLINE

Step 1 - Break into groups. Your teachers will assist in group placement.

Step 2 - Are you an author or illustrator? You will be given an 'author' or 'illustrator' name tag which you keep to take home. Your name tag will be signed by Chris at the close of the workshop.

Step 3 - Choose a name for your group.

Step 4 - Select your setting, character and random object.

- A Plot or storyline using all 3 selected items.
- Your story will need at least one challenge which will be resolved with a happy resolution and a good ending (hopefully!)

Step 5 - At the end of the 1st session, two nominated people from each group will let the audience know the 3 items your group selected, then an outline of the story.

Step 6 - Once the stories have all been outlined, a vote will decide on which story is to be used to develop into our rhyming narrative. Each group must vote for another story - not your own!

5 minute Recess - while Chris writes the story outline on the whiteboard.

PART 2 (2nd session) - TURN OUR STORY INTO A WHACKY RHYMING NARRATIVE!

Step 1

Authors and illustrators are split into two groups where you will re-seat yourselves on either side of the room. Your teachers will assist with group placement.

Step 2

- Authors - as a group we will now turn the selected story into our own whacky rhyming narrative!
- Illustrators - you are going to create some images connected to story. You can use the storyboard or the scene or both!