

My Creative School Tools

Part of the My Creative School Learning Resource:
Arts-led, schools-focused tools exploring new
approaches to school development
www.anewdirection.org.uk/mcslearningresource

Experience, imagination and the written word

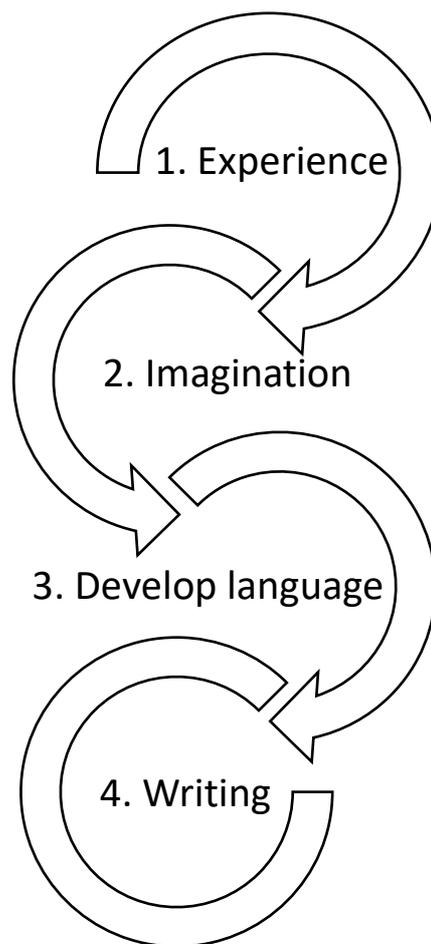
A resource outlining the process of immersive, experiential opportunities to stimulate imagination, new vocabulary and support creative writing.

These steps outline the process from experience to imagination to the written word, informed by the learning from one of our MCS Creative Catalyst projects with year 5 pupils. The project explored the idea that the body and its senses can become the primary tools for expanding imaginations, leading to richer vocabulary and creative writing.

A process for creative writing...

Revisit the memory of those experiences, to develop their imagination. Try asking open ended questions about characters where students can make their own choices and develop their imagination for their story. The freedom to make independent choices will build more material for writing.

Turning words into writing. Children use their newly acquired vocabulary to express their own ideas in a piece of creative writing.



Enrich imaginations using the body, senses and visual experiences. Try setting a scene to inspire new story ideas, using sound, images, paying attention to smells, sounds, textures, colours etc. Encourage children to engage emotionally with their characters through acting out experiences and expressing their ideas.

Putting it into words – Develop their spoken vocabulary to express their own story ideas. Use the child's sensations to support expressing a story idea and character description verbally. A personal connection with the character empowers children to choose the words themselves. Encourage use of similes, adjectives and synonyms to embellish a story and further develop their own language. Record the pupils and let them listen back to it.

This tool was developed by Andrea Puerta (creative practitioner) with Suzanna Welikala (year 5 class teacher) at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Kingston).

To learn more about this project go to: <https://www.anewdirection.org.uk/what-we-do/schools/my-creative-school>