

Brain Strain Creative Rhyme - One Session Workshop!

- To Suit Year 3 Level and up.
- 1 x session 90 minutes
- Max class size 30

Author in 'Normal' Mode



Author in 'Brain Strain' Mode



Part 1 (45 minutes) – Create the Plot

- Students are seated into work groups of around 6 per group.
- Using a PowerPoint presentation, Chris will show the group his rhyming style and the how he gets the 'bounce' in his stories.
- Every student is given an ID card, signed by Chris as a keepsake to take home after the workshop.



- Each group selects a '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 on the moon; somehow involving a car!
- Each group is then given a number and a name.
- Each group will develop a storyline that needs to include each of these components. The group will outline a plot, at least one challenge for the character/s 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 selected at the start of the session. After each group has read out the outline of their groups chosen storyline, one story is then randomly selected to be the focus for session 2, we Chris and the entire group will turn that story into a rhyming narrative. Some groups will have things a little further advanced than the others. This is ok because we will all choose the story we think will be the most fun!

Part 2 – (45 minutes) Turn the story into a rhyming verse!

- The mission is for Chris and the class 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 their own illustration based on the character and setting. The students face the challenge of writing a rhyming narrative where the story needs to unfold while maintaining the rhyme and rhythm. It is a lot of fun, highly engaging and guaranteed to bring out the creativity in the participants! This workshop can be applied to high schools and adult groups as well.
- Time permitting; the session will end with a song from one of Chris' books where the students can sing and dance.