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BRILLIANCE BUILDERS
TEACHER BRILLIANCE & 18

SUMMER 2018
ISSUE 2
VOLUME 2

TEACHER'S WORKROOM
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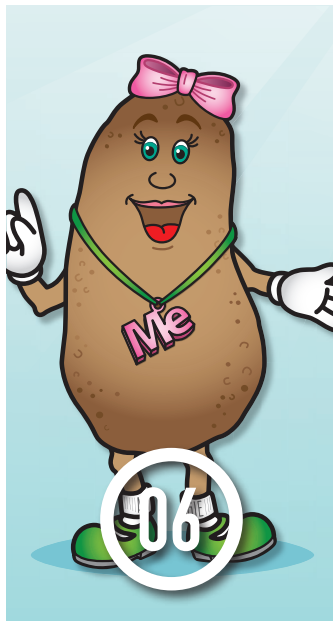
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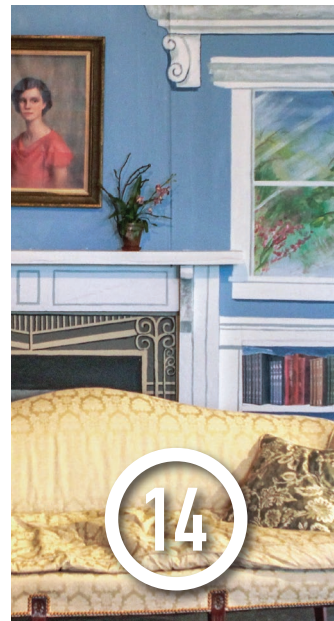
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Abekamazing Christian School, a service of Abeka (Pensacola, Florida), is an extension of our commitment to Christian traditional education in schools and homes. Our mission is to support and equip students, teachers, and parents by providing amazing Pre-K through grade 12 academic resources based upon biblical values.

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Letter from Abeka

Dear Friends,

I remember my teacher Mrs. Florence Blake. (I think she taught my parents also.) When I was in her class, I didn't know that she was brilliant. I thought she was old and stern and bragged too much about her grandchildren. But thinking back, I now know Mrs. Blake had **TEACHER BRILLIANCE!** She was definitely not sparkly—not that kind of brilliance. So what made her brilliant? I think it was her special talent for facing a classroom challenge head on, coming up with a solution, and implementing it. Brilliant teachers, I have learned, like to find solutions.

And I have learned from and worked with teachers who have that special something that reminds me of Mrs. Blake—maybe you call it creativity, panache, even genius; I call it brilliance! It may not be on the scale of solving world hunger, but it surely comes in handy when you have to deal with missing pencils!

☀ One brilliant kindergarten teacher puts spots of Velcro on each student's table and pencils. Fun to attach and no more lost pencils!

☀ Another brilliant kindergarten teacher keeps two pencils for each child in a cup on the table. The sharpened pencils are point down in the cup. When the pencil breaks, the child places that pencil point up so that the teacher can see when pencils need to be sharpened.

See what I mean?

☀ And lest you think only kindergarten teachers have brilliance, what about the elementary teacher who wanted a kinder and quieter end of the day? She made an End of the Day Jar with questions that reviewed the day. A chosen student pulled out and read one card to ask his classmates. Questions like...

- Did you observe an act of kindness today?
- What new thing did you learn today?
- What made you thankful today?

☀ And then there is the high school teacher who had her students begging to practice diagramming by letting them use dry erase markers on the classroom windows!

Look for more ideas throughout this issue of *Abekamazing*. We have borrowed brains from some brilliant teachers.

Brilliance is within your grasp!


Dr. Phyllis Rand
Senior Editor
amazingschool@abeka.com



Mrs. Blake's student

Dr. Phyllis Rand's over 40 years of service in Christian education has ranged from being a sixth grade teacher to graduate and post-graduate faculty, and from elementary administrator to Chair of Education for Pensacola Christian College in Pensacola, FL. She has also written language arts textbooks and developed curriculum for Abeka.

TEACHER'S WORKROOM

KIM SMITH



Welcome to the teacher's workroom, where veteran Christian schoolteacher and popular Abeka presenter Kim Smith shares ideas you can use to make your classroom amazing.

PERSONALLY SPEAKING ABOUT STORIES

Have you noticed that stories have the power to ignite brain activity and connectivity in a way that a power-point slide, an outline, or a worksheet cannot? In fact, I have read that our brains are naturally hard-wired for narrative structure. Biochemistry is confirming what veteran teachers already know: the communication meter goes off the charts when you "tell it like a story." Why? I think it is because stories are our heart language. I have been thinking about ways to speak our students' language using stories. The lessons will stay in their minds—and hearts!

Kim

Tell me a...



Stories can be powerful teachers of moral character and virtue.

They teach by example. They connect to personal experience on an emotional level. They inspire us. They move us to persuasion and even action.

Do you sense that you just aren't getting through to your students? Instead of a scolding or more homework, have them close their books and then speak to their hearts via a story. Begin collecting the perfect stories.

☀ Do you want to teach what honesty means? Tell them about the time that Abe Lincoln walked three miles to return six cents.

☀ Do you want to teach what friendship means? Read them *Charlotte's Web*. Or retell Aesop's fable about *The Lion and the Mouse*.

☀ What about courage? Tell how David faced a giant in the strength of the Lord and Daniel faced hungry lions. God told us those stories for a reason!

Stories can be powerful communicators of information.

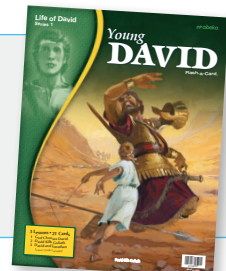
They help make complicated information more easily absorbed and remembered. In fact, story is the history and language teacher's oldest technique.

History is full of all the elements that make great stories—drama and fascinating characters. Weaving story into your lesson makes it conversational and brings the facts and people to life. You can even work narrative into your review.

☀ Tired of the regular question/answer review? Try this for a change: Seat two students on either side of you in front of the class. Begin a narrative: "President Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark on a journey to investigate his recent land purchase. I am having trouble remembering the name of it." (turning to one student) "Do you have a better memory than I do? What was that name?" Continue



Young David Bible Flash-A-Card
For more information, see
abeka.com/YoungDavid



with the review narrative, stopping at points for help with elements of the story. At some point, change helpers.

Teachers of second languages have long used this storytelling technique with beginners.

☀️ Improve listening and fluency by telling bilingual stories. This example has unfamiliar Spanish words, but the context reveals their meaning.

We know Fanny Crosby best as a great **escritora of himnos**. She wrote more **himnos** than anyone in **la historia**—8,000 to be exact. No wonder she was called the “**Reina** of Gospel Song Writers.” Some of Fanny’s best-known gospel songs include “Blessed Assurance,” “To **Dios** Be the **Gloria**,” and “Tell Me the **Historia** of **Jesús**.”

Fanny was also a rescue mission worker and a **poeta**. She had **cuatro libros** of poetry published. All of this was accomplished despite her being **ciega** all of her **vida** and receiving no encouragement from her **maestros**. The next time you open a **himnario**, look for her **nombre**. 🇪🇸



THE BEST STORIES...

*The best stories can be told in simple language.
The best stories have openings and closings that stay in the mind.
The best storytellers do not go off on tangents.
The best stories evoke emotion and imagination.*

E.M. Forrester gave this example of good storytelling.

“The king died. The queen died.” This, Forrester said, is **information**. “The king died, and then the queen died of grief.” This is **story**. Those few additional words add emotion and stir the imagination—the necessary ingredients of story.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“Are stories alone sufficient for the task of raising good children? No, of course not. Parents (teachers) also need to set a good personal example, to encourage good habits, to explain rules, and to enforce them through appropriate discipline.”

Books That Build Character: A Guide to Teaching Your Child Moral Values, William Kilpatrick and Gregory and Suzanne M. Wolfe, p.21

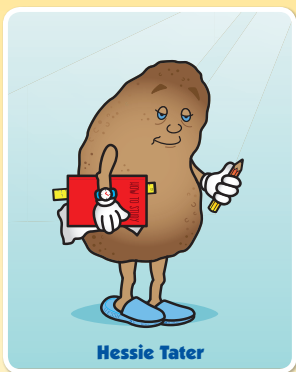


The Tater Family

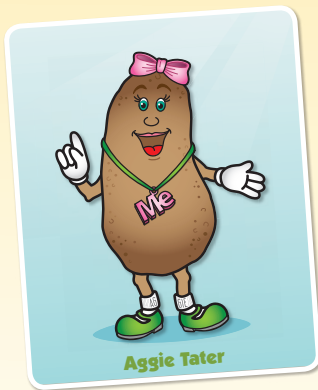
This interesting object lesson teaches character through story. It is especially well suited for ages 10–12 as it covers traits common to those ages. It is wonderfully adaptable to many situations.



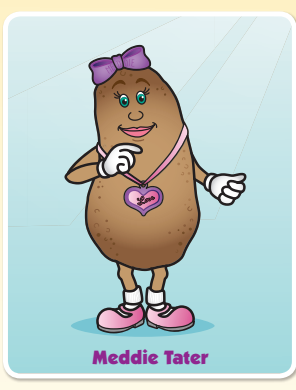
Speck Tater



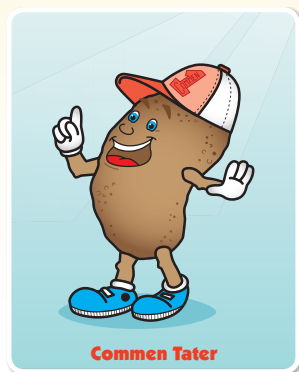
Hessie Tater



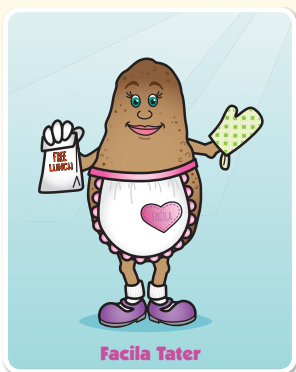
Aggie Tater



Meddie Tater



Commen Tater



Facila Tater

The Tater children are part of a large family. Mr. and Mrs. Tater are helping all the Tater children to develop character traits that please the family and the Lord.

Speck Tater (spectator)

Speck is very watchful and attentive, but he surely misses out on a lot of fun and opportunities! He rarely participates in school or in games. He thinks he cannot do things well. Perhaps he is shy or is afraid of what other people will think if he messes up.

A helpful Bible verse for Speck is *I sought the Lord and he heard me and delivered me from all my fears.* —Psalm 34:4

Hessie Tater (hesitater)

Hessie has a reputation for always being late—late in arriving places, late in finishing his work, and even late in making decisions. He means to do all these things promptly but just never gets around to it. He always thinks, "I have plenty of time" or "I will get to my work tomorrow." (His nickname is Couch.)

A helpful Bible verse for Hessie is *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily (eagerly and well) as to the Lord.* —Colossians 3:23a

Aggie Tater (agitator)

Aggie does not think before she speaks. If she did, she might not say some of the troublesome and hurtful words that come out of her mouth. Often Aggie's words make people very upset. Perhaps she likes to be the center of attention or she likes to brag and gossip.

A helpful Bible verse for Aggie is *Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones.* —Proverbs 16: 24

Meddie Tater (meditator)

Meddie and Aggie are identical twins. They look and act alike in many ways. Meddie, however, practices being very careful with her words. She memorized Psalm 19:14 and thinks about it before she speaks.

Meddie's favorite verse is *Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.* —Psalm 19:14

Commen Tater (commentator)

Commen is not a good listener, but he is a very good talker. He has a comment and an opinion about everyone and everything. Perhaps he is proud and does not like to listen to others' advice.

A helpful Bible verse for Commen is *Pride goeth before destruction and an haughty spirit before a fall.* —Proverbs 16:18

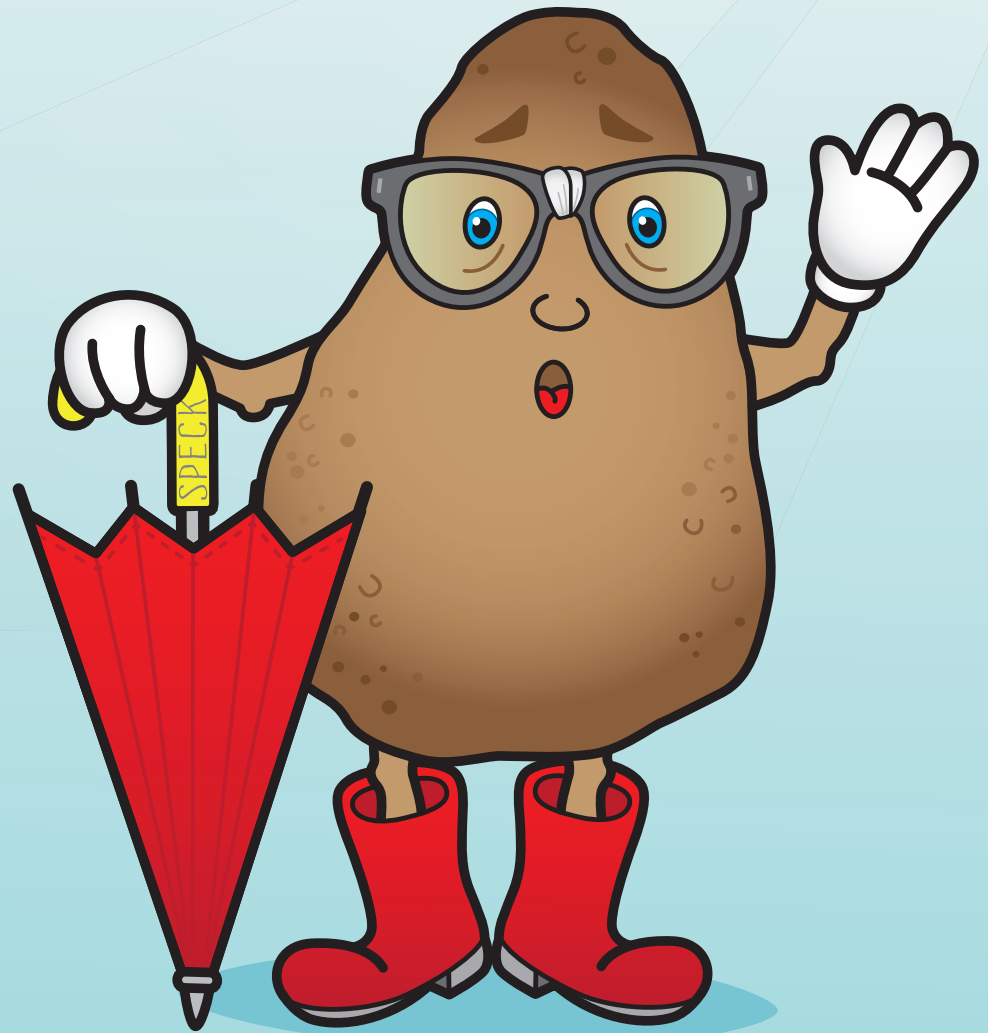
Facila Tater (facilitator)

Facila is known for her helpfulness. Her dad often calls her Sweet Tater because of her friendly and loving spirit.

Facila's favorite verse is *Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.* —Proverbs 3:27



Visit abeka.com/TaterVideo to watch Dr. Chris Bowman teach the lesson and hear his suggestions for implementing it. Download your taters at abeka.com/TaterFamily.



Speck Tater



Tater Bulletin Board

Print your taters as cards or laminate and cut them out. You can download them at abeka.com/TaterFamily. They also make an interesting bulletin board after you have taught all about them. Here is an example.

making a DIFFERENCE

BILL RICE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

NATHAN REEVES



The Bill Rice Ranch in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, has ministered to thousands and thousands of deaf and hearing campers since the early 1950s. But in 1993, the Ranch began a new venture: Bill Rice Christian Academy. The goal was to meet the educational needs of the Ranch staff kids while also having an impact in the community. Principal Nathan Reeves tells us about his ministry.

In 1993 thirty-one K5–12th students began school in the Ranch office building. The “new” classroom building, actually a staff house, wasn’t completely renovated yet. Church volunteers came to help us convert the living space into class space. The roofline was raised and the carport enclosed. We didn’t start in a garage like Apple, but we did start in a carport!

During these early years, our enrollment stayed in the mid-twenties. Most of our students were “Ranch kids,” and most of our classes were combination classes. Abeka Academy made it all work.

Then, in 2006, we made the tough decision to stop offering upper grades and focus on being the best elementary school we could be. This proved to be a terrific decision as enrollment began a steady increase starting the next year. The timing was good. For the last ten years, Rutherford County has been one of the top ten fastest growing counties in the country. For some reason, everyone wants to move to Middle Tennessee! And word has spread about this small school located on a quiet, safe ranch which offers an excellent education and godly training. God has used this and BRCA’s reputation for doing things right while loving people to grow our Christian school. In fact, He has increased our enrollment for twelve straight years! For this we praise Him.

Eventually we were able to separate our combined classes and teach all classes traditionally. In 2015 we created our unique middle school where each student is placed on a team that competes each day in academics and character. Points and a unanimous teacher vote earn seventh graders their middle school jacket. Everyone works hard for this honor. We added our first



high school grade last year and plan to continue adding all the way through twelfth grade. This year we opened a new wing to our elementary building, and we currently have 110 students. God has surely been good to us!

While this simple overview shows the highlights, what we are most thrilled about is the daily influence we've had on hundreds of individual students. Lives are and will be different because of what God has done through Bill Rice Christian Academy. 🇺🇸



◀ Celebrating the earning of her jacket!



According to Forbes.com, two-thirds of American small businesses do not last ten years. That's astounding! While Bill Rice Christian Academy is not a small business, we certainly started small with no idea how long we would last. But God was with us, and this year we celebrate our 25th anniversary!

Bill Rice Ranch

In 1939, Evangelist Bill Rice and his wife, Cathy, had a baby girl who became gravely ill with spinal meningitis. The baby, Betty, survived but lost her hearing as a result. Dr. Bill preached the gospel across the country, but his own daughter could not hear it. So, with the aid of pictures and a black-board, Cathy Rice began to teach her daughter about the gift of God's Son.

God used Betty's salvation to open their eyes to the great need of unreached deaf people across the country. In 1950, the Rices purchased a ranch in Murfreesboro to build a camp. In 1953, they hosted their first Deaf Week camp. All twelve campers came free of charge. They hosted hearing campers for the first time in 1955.

Today, the Ranch hosts events for young and old, deaf and hearing, on the property and across the country for the purpose of revival and evangelism.



NEWS & EVENTS

Congratulations, Winners!



The 8 winners with their teachers and Mayor Jack Tibbs of Eufaula, AL

Principal Ken Senes of **Parkview Christian School in Eufaula, Alabama**, shares this exciting news:

“When I learned of the national Campaign for Cursive Writing Contest, I asked our first and second grade teachers to have their students enter the contest. Last April, we were pleasantly surprised to receive a telephone call informing our school that we had won 1st place in both grades, as well as 2nd and 3rd place finishes.

The chairman of the contest said, “I don’t know what curriculum you’re using to teach your children cursive writing, but whatever you do, don’t stop using it because we’ve never seen such beautiful handwriting from such young children as your students.” Of course, we use the Abeka curriculum!”

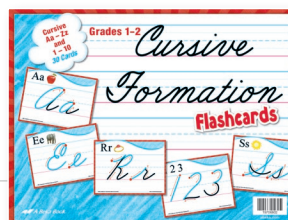
Why not enter your school in the competition?

The contest coincides with January 23 National Handwriting Day (birthdate of John Hancock whose famous signature decorates the Declaration of Independence).



Get more details at campaignforcursive.com.

Campaign for Cursive and its logo are used with permission from the American Handwriting Analysis Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c)(6).



Cursive Formation Flashcards

For more information, see abeka.com/CursiveFlashcards

MAKE NEWS

How has God blessed your school?
We would love to hear about it.
Just send some details to
amazingschool@abeka.com using
the subject line: **SCHOOL NEWS**.

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Academy

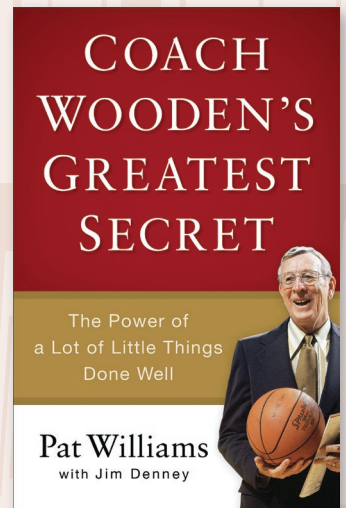
Find out more today at abeka.com/Proteach

WHAT I JUST READ

*Coach Wooden's Greatest Secret:
The Power of a Lot of Little Things Done Well*
by Pat Williams

Coach John Wooden is one of basketball's most brilliant coaches. But if you asked him his occupation, he always said teacher. His ball players were his students. And if you asked him the blueprint to his success, he said it was attention to the little things. That is why at the first practice of each season, he taught his players how to put on their socks and shoes a very particular way. He learned it cut down on blisters and gave them an edge!

Teachers and coaches who want to be their best benefit from this "greatest secret" for achieving excellence. And so do their students. ■



All content is not necessarily reflective of the views held by Abeka.

Wooden's Seven Keys to Life

- Be true to yourself.
- Help others.
- Make each day your masterpiece.
- Drink deeply from good books, especially the Bible.
- Make friendship a fine art.
- Build shelter against a rainy day.
- Pray for guidance and give thanks for your blessings every day.

Recommended by

MARK GOETSCH

*Athletic Director/Men's Basketball Coach
Pensacola Christian College*



**"If you cannot do great things,
do small things in a great way."** ☀

Napoleon Hill

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN READING?

Send recommendations or reviews of books that help you as a teacher or administrator to amazingschool@abeka.com with the subject line: **BOOK RECOMMENDATION**.

Invest in Brilliance!



Let's face it. Brilliant teachers are creative thinkers! But lest that seems to leave you and me out of the running, it is encouraging to find that brilliant teachers are not necessarily more creative than the average person. The skills they possess are available to all of us average teachers also! Remember Edison's "genius is 1% inspiration and 99 % perspiration." If you are able to read and understand this article and have persistence, you are on your way to having the creative potential of Thomas Edison! ☀️

Robert Sternberg concludes that creativity requires these six distinct but interrelated skills or resources.

Robert Sternberg's research has added much to our understanding of the nature of creativity. According to Sternberg, creativity is a conscious choice –a matter of deliberately deciding to make use of these six resources better. He calls this the Investment Theory of Creativity. It seems we are really more in control of our creativity than we may have thought. We just have to make the investment. Great news! ☀️

Robert J. Sternberg (2006) The Nature of Creativity, *Creative Research Journal*, 18:1, 87-98, DOI: 10.1207/s15326934crj1801_10

RESOURCE: INTELLECTUAL SKILLS

Research: The specific intellectual skills Sternberg found that creative people need are

- The skill to see challenges in new ways
- The skill to recognize the ideas that are worth pursuing and those which are not
- The skill to convincingly articulate the value of an idea.

Relevance: Practice meaningful class conversations.

- I agree/disagree with ___ because ...
- I'd like to go back to what ___ said about ...
- Couldn't it also be that ...
- Can you give an example of that?
- So what you're saying is ...

RESOURCE: KNOWLEDGE

Research: What and how much we know can help or hinder our creativity. We have to ask ourselves

- Are we willing to move beyond what we know and learn more?
- Are we making use of past knowledge?

Relevance: Assign learning beyond the text—suggest books, people to interview, or virtual tours.

In addition to relevance to our own personal creativity, this research has relevance to teaching.

RESOURCE: STYLES OF THINKING

Research: In essence, our preferred styles of thinking are the decisions we make about how to use the resources available to us. Sternberg calls the style of thinking important for creativity a *legislative style*. He describes it as

- A preference for thinking through things
- A decision to look for new ways
- A decision to look at the big picture
- A decision to value creativity

Relevance: Pose short challenges that encourage thinking "outside the box."

You have just washed up on a deserted island, and these items (soap, dictionary, button) have also washed up. How could you use them to help you survive?

RESOURCE: ENVIRONMENT

Research: Creative ideas grow in supportive and rewarding environments.

Relevance: Look for amazingly easy classroom environments that build brilliance and creativity on pages 18–20.

RESOURCE: MOTIVATION

Research: Sternberg found that we rarely do creative work in an area unless we really love what we are doing and focus on the work rather than on potential rewards.

Motivation is not always inherent in us, Sternberg says. If we need to work in a certain area that does not particularly interest us, we decide to find a way to make it interesting.

Relevance: Vary reporting periodically to allow for interests and creativity—reporting in costume, using original artwork, taping an interview of the "author," writing an original poem, presenting a report using technology.

RESOURCE: PERSONALITY

Research: Certain personality traits support creativity.

- A willingness to overcome obstacles
- A willingness to take sensible risks (These attributes are not *fixed*—we can decide to overcome obstacles and take sensible risks.)

Relevance: Quote creative thinkers—"If Plan A didn't work, there are 25 more letters. Keep at it!" ■

THE HOLY SPIRIT: STERNBERG'S MISSING RESOURCE

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundant above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

—Ephesians 3:20



HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

Conquering Staging Challenges Brilliantly

And on a budget!

See how Matt Condon and Tabernacle Christian School (Martinsville, IN) transformed their all-purpose gym into a set for the senior play. Matt turned a very small stage into a work of art. It is amazing what can be done with imagination, foam core, and card stock! ☀



Editor's
Favorite
abeka

Thanks for these winning ideas, Matt. A \$100 Visa gift card is coming your way.

Front view of Matt's beautiful set

This is the set from a distance (The big screen TV was not part of the set.) This stage is extremely shallow with four entrance/exit possibilities [left and, right steps in front and behind stage]. Notice that the play was also a fund-raising dinner theater.



The Details

◀ Instead of leaving the walls looking like the 4x8 rectangles that they are, Matt built out the flats to give them more dimension.

▶ The cast used these steps as an exit. They had very little space behind the set but used it to their advantage. The audience imagined a high staircase, but only three steps were needed for the illusion.





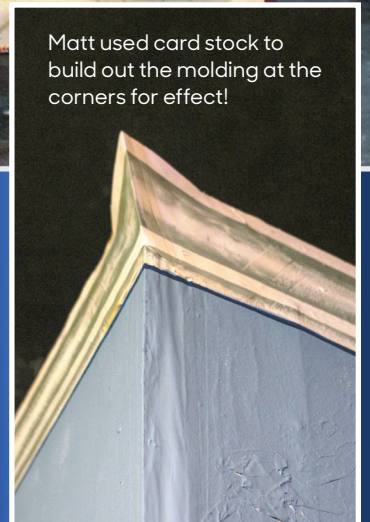
◀ A close-up of the crown molding detail made of inexpensive foam core—available at any arts & crafts store.

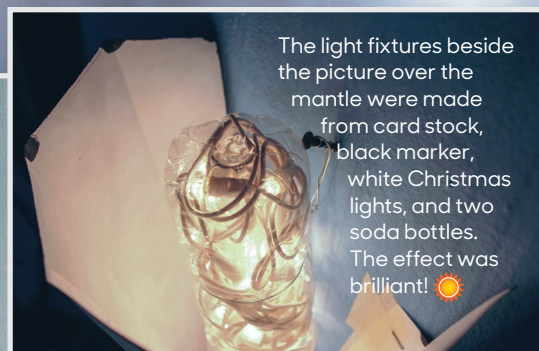


Matt used card stock to build out the molding at the corners for effect!



◀ A little paint gave the fireplace depth and dimension.

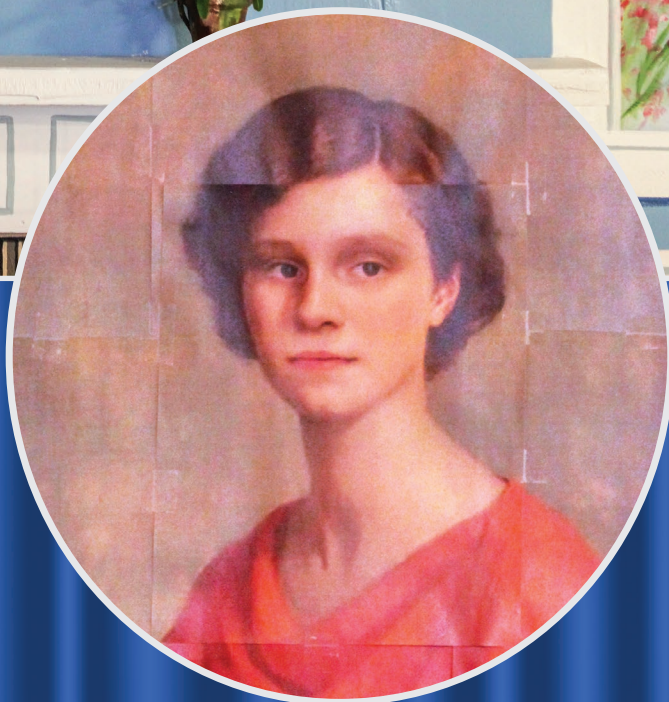




The light fixtures beside the picture over the mantle were made from card stock, black marker, white Christmas lights, and two soda bottles. The effect was brilliant! ☀



▲ Matt found a 1920s picture and replicated the stencil which was used throughout the set. A little paint went a long way toward getting the audience to the 1920s.



▲ The portrait is another brilliant detail. Using photo editing software, Matt took a picture of the girl playing the Mom in the play and made it look like a painting. Then he made enlarged copies on his printer and pieced the picture together. ☀

WILL YOU BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT *Christian School Teacher Spotlight?*



If you're a Christian school teacher, you've got an amazing story that could encourage other teachers. We're making it easy for you to do that. Visit **[Abeka.com/SchoolTeacher](https://www.abeka.com/SchoolTeacher)** and share your story. You may even be the focus of our next Christian School Teacher Spotlight on both our website and social media channels and in an upcoming issue of Abekamazing.

Brilliance

BUILDERS

Creating a classroom environment that supports interest and learning

Brilliant teachers create environments that support student interest and success. These five suggestions provide a little variety and lots of learning value! Creative innovation improves the way your students learn the content!

1 Use color in creative ways

Color makes content attractive and more easily absorbed.



One's mind,
when stretched
by a new idea,
never regains its
original dimensions.
—Oliver Wendell Holmes



2

Don't limit assignments to one format

"Work on your second draft" is a legitimate writing assignment. But there are other revision techniques. How about:

- replace 4 being verbs with action verbs
- add one metaphor
- add five sensory details

When it comes right down to it, students want variety with a dependable structure. They want to be challenged yet not overwhelmed. They need the opportunity to make some decisions and use their imaginations.

Good teaching
is one-fourth
preparation and
three-fourths
theatre.

—Gail Goldwin

3

Come in costume

A lesson done in costume is likely to be remembered!

- *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* as told by the Ancient Mariner himself, Drew Patrick.
- Jadine Chappell appeared as Tex to teach second-graders about cowboys in the American West.
- Meredith White's first-graders will probably always remember her colorful rainbow theme.

Drew Patrick



Jadine Chappell



Meredith White



4

End or begin your class memorably

Use some regular expression or quotation that will become associated with your class. High schoolers may groan, but they will love it and remember it! Pretty soon you won't have to say it; they will do that for you.

There's always Yogi Berra's "It ain't over 'til it's over." Students still remember their history teacher who always began his class with "Greetings, Friends of learning, Scholars, and Others."

And of course younger grades still love these old goodbyes:

- See you later, Alligator
- Gotta go, Buffalo
- Take care, Polar Bear
- Bye, bye, Butterfly
- Out the door, Dinosaur



5

Incorporate humor in your classroom

Creativity flourishes in a positive environment. Put humorous and profound thoughts like these on the board frequently.

- *Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken.* —Oscar Wilde
- *Without geography, you're nowhere.* —Author Unknown
- *All generalizations are false, including this one.* —Mark Twain
- *I have never been hurt by what I have not said.* —Calvin Coolidge
- *One advantage of talking to yourself is that you know at least someone is listening.* —Franklin P. Jones
- *To be or not to be. That's not really a question.* —Jean-Luc Godard

Bulletin boards can also add subtle humor and color.

Polly want an adjective?

Polly's
crackers
(whose)

ten
crackers
(how many)

no peanut
butter
(how much)

this
cracker
(which one)

salty
crackers
(what kind)



Nailed It!

Wittenberg

Oct. 31, 1517

Ninety-five
Theses



Teacher

Brilliance

Generous teachers share their brilliance

Got a great idea? Send a high resolution photo (>1.5Mb) along with your idea to amazingschool@abeka.com. **Editor's Favorite** wins \$100 gift card.

Bucket Storage

Buckets hung on S-hooks on the chalkboard tray or easel keep counting manipulatives, board supplies, and flashcards easily within reach and presorted. Plus they make distribution and collection quick and effective. I use shower caddies with swivel hooks in the same way.

—Meredith White



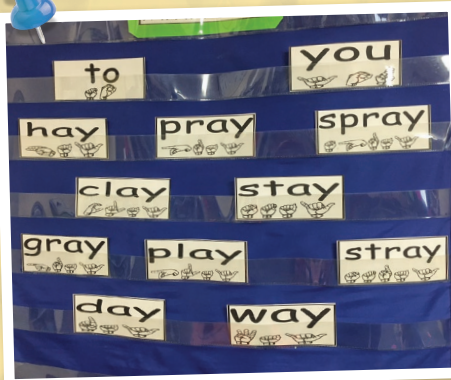
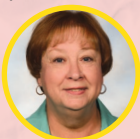
Editor's Favorite
abeka

Thanks for this winning idea, Meredith. A \$100 Visa gift card is coming your way.

Class Communication

Shutterfly account holders can create share sites. I found this a great way to communicate with parents. The site allows me to post pictures and videos, newsletters, the monthly school calendar, volunteer lists for parties or snacks, a class list and contacts, and a message board for parents to communicate with each other. The site is private and safe, and completely free!"

—Cheryl Reid



Letter Review and Sign Language Too!

I add sign language when my kindergartners review letter sounds and spelling. Using more than one sense makes the information stick. And the bonus is that we get to learn another language (ASL)! I found a free sign language font named Gallaudet that allows you to make any letter a finger spelling.

—Catherine Dowers



See and Taste the Difference

To help my young students "see" (and taste later) the difference between area and perimeter, I bring to class two un-iced square cakes in baking pans. Students help me ice the surface area and measure the sides to find the area ($A=s \times s$). When I cut the cake into square units, we learn, for example, that $A=3 \times 3$ or 9 square units.

Perimeter is the distance around the surface so on the other cake, students help pipe icing around the four sides ($P=4s$).

—Kim Smith



Remembering Metrics

David Howe credits his wife Judy for this idea for remembering metric prefixes. Hint: Use a deep voice to say first three and a mousy voice to say last three to indicate size.

—Dave Howe



K	h	da	u(unit)	d	c	m
King	Henry	died	unexpectedly (while)	drinking	chocolate	milk.
Kilo	hecto	deca	unit	deci	centi	milli
1000	100	10		.1	.01	.001

Tracing Letters

I use this idea during K4 writing time. It's a plastic envelope (available at many dollar stores) with the cursive flashcard inside.

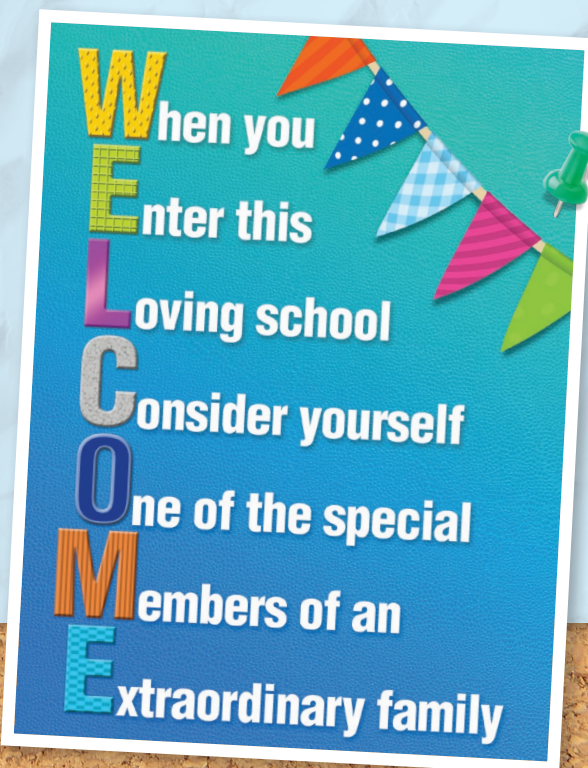
Little hands trace with a dry erase marker as I teach them about the letter.

—Gloria Rigsby



WELCOME Poster

A warm welcome awaits the students at Wilmington Christian Academy (NC) as they begin a new school year. What a wonderful idea for a school lobby poster, a hallway or classroom bulletin board!



Editor's Favorite
abeka

Thanks for this winning idea, Sonya. A \$100 Visa gift card is coming your way.



Photo Booth

I made Orientation Day special this year with my photo booth using a building blocks theme. I wrapped the Abeka boxes my materials were delivered in, cut some pool noodles for decoration, and made some signs. Voila! Parents often chose to be in the picture. I will do it again at end of year to record all the growth spurts!

—Sonya Fanjoy

I remember playing games and learning to be thoughtful in Mrs. Blake's class. We played Sink or Swim and made Sunshine Boxes.

—Phyllis Rand

Sink or Swim

Mrs. Blake divided the class into two teams facing one another. She asked Team #1 a question. If they got it right, they chose one person from the other team to sink (go back to seat). If Team #2 got their question right, they could either sink a member of the other team or save a sunken team member.

The winning team has the most people at the end.

Sunshine Box (or Basket or Bag)

This is what Mrs. Blake did when one of our classmates had a sustained illness or a family sadness. The class decorated a Sunshine Box and filled it with cards and notes—sometimes drawings, gifts such as stuffed animals, coloring books and crayons, books to read, a new pencil, food treats if appropriate (I made crispy treats!)



“
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING
.....
WHY DO YOU
TEACH?
—————”

“
Because I want to
help children stand up
for what they believe
and dream big.
.....

— Michele L.

.....
Teaching gives me
the opportunity to
teach students and
help them to grow in
many ways not just
academically.
.....

— Kari M.

“
Seeing the students
at the beginning of
the year & how they
mature & grow in
their academics is
amazing!
.....

— Kim Ann Mizenko C.

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