Critical and Creative Thinking for Families (Volume 11)

→ Directions: Look over these activities and choose one (or more) that seem interesting to you.

PMI

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The Situation:

You wake up one morning and you're only 2 inches tall, but no one seems to notice. What would be the pluses, minuses, and interestings of this?

Plus	Minus	Interesting

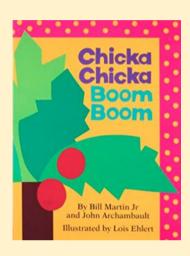
What if...

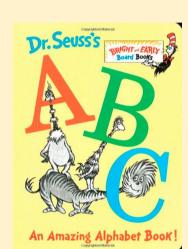
- You have a pet cat
- You had to walk the dog
- You had to go to a family dinner at your grandma's house

If you don't love these option, consider using P-M-I to explore other ideas.

Habits of Mind - Thinking Flexibly

ABC Books, or Alphabet Books, presents the letters of of the alphabet with corresponding pictures. If you were making a winter-themed ABC Book, what might you include? How many letters of the alphabet can you connect to winter?





Visualization

Visualize the setting from a book you've read this week. What three adjectives would you use to describe this setting? Explain your choices.



SCAMPER

The Situation:

You just opened your new business, Creative Cookie Company. You are known for creating unique cookies in all sorts of shapes, sizes, colors, flavors, toppings, fillings, and more!

What are some of the most unique cookies you can imagine?

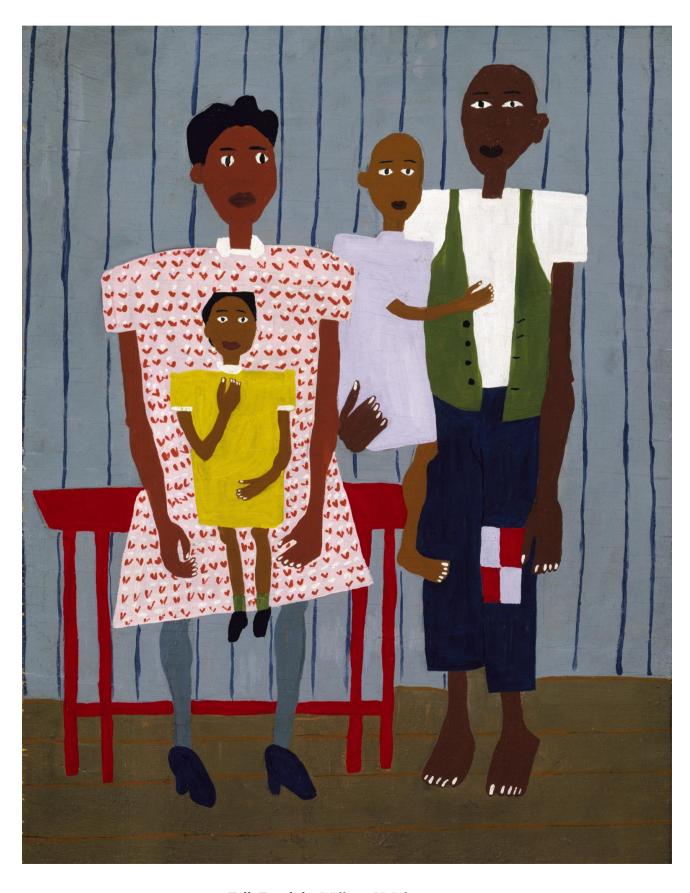
Can you come up with 3 cookies? 6 cookies? A dozen (12) cookies?



See - Think - Wonder

See-Think-Wonder is a thinking routine that encourages students to make careful observations and thoughtful interpretations. It helps stimulate curiosity and sets the stage for inquiry. It relies on the questions:

- What do you see?
- What do you think is happening?
- What does it make you wonder?



Folk Family by William H. Johnson

Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery



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Habits of Mind - Thinking Flexibly

When we think flexibly, we are able to change perspectives. We consider the ideas of others.



Plus-Minus-Interesting

Learners use the PMI structure to keep an open-minded attitude and consider an issue from multiple perspectives. Younger learners may consider what would make a certain idea interesting (i.e. What if books were round?), older learners may use the "I" to consider implications.



Visualization

Stated simply, visualization is technique that involves forming images in our mind. Visualizing helps us imagine situations, events, or ideas even when what we are thinking about is not actually present.



S.C.A.M.P.E.R.

S.C.A.M.P.E.R. is a model that helps us create unique thoughts, explore relationships, and search for new or different combinations. SCAMPER involves a variety techniques (**S**ubstitute – **C**ombine – **A**djust or **A**dapt – **M**odify – **P**ut to Other Uses – **E**liminate *or* **E**laborate – **R**everse or **R**earrange) that help to change and improve something by changing one or more parts of the original idea.