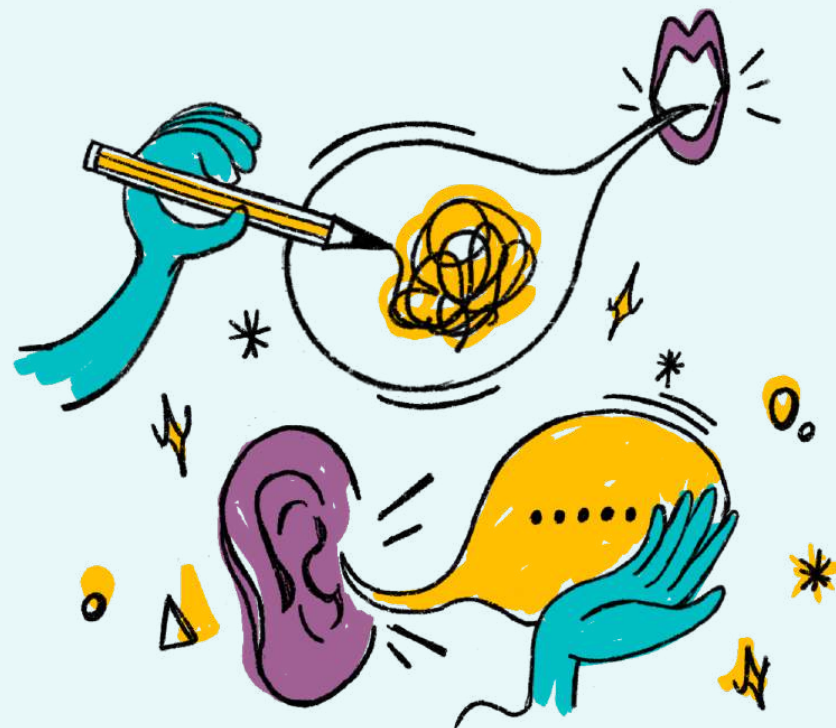


THE
JANUARY
CHALLENGE
2024

CREATIVITY CHAMPIONS PACK

For Libraries



64 Million
artists



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

CILIPS Scotland's library
and information
professionals

**WEST COLLEGE
SCOTLAND**



What's in the Creativity Champions Pack?

Pages 3 - 5 Welcome!

Pages 6 - 11 - What IS a Creativity Champion?

Pages 12 - 13 - About this year

Pages 14 - 51 - The Creative Prompts

Pages 52 - 53 - Printable Poster and Survey



(If you want to save on paper, when in your print settings, select the custom range of pages 15–52)

WE ARE ALL CREATIVE!

Hello, libraries - and welcome to The January Challenge 2024! The January Challenge is 31 days of free, quick and accessible creative prompts - one for each day of January.

Why? Because everybody is creative, and when we explore and use our creativity, we can make positive change in our lives, and in the world around us.

The January Challenge is designed to help you, your colleagues and your library community to kickstart your year, try new things, and connect with people across the UK - and the world! 85% of people who participated in 2023 said that taking part positively impacted their wellbeing. You can read more about that in our [2023 Impact Report here](#).

People take part in The January Challenge in all sorts of ways. Some people sign up to receive a daily email throughout January and share their creativity with family, friends or with our friendly online community.

This is the Creativity Champions Pack for Libraries, which contains all the creative prompts ahead of time. Creativity Champions (like you!) can use this pack to set up The January Challenge in your library, and engage creatively with the people around you.

Whether you introduce the creative prompts to your colleagues, your visitors or amongst your local partners, we hope to spread The January Challenge word to libraries around the country!


Throughout this Pack, you will find top tips on how you could use the creative prompts to nurture a culture of creativity in your library. We'd love to see how you use it, so keep in touch with us using our contact information (on the last page).

This year we have created four versions of the Creativity Champions Pack. You are here, in a Pack suitable for library staff interested in getting creative with others. We also have one Pack for other workplace leaders, one for staff in Elderly Care settings, and one in the Welsh Language. All are available for free download at 64millionartists.com - please do share far and wide with anyone you think might find it useful!



This Pack is supported by library sector staff

64 Million Artists have been working with Kirsten MacQuarrie, Sean McNamara and Leah Higgins at CILIPS, and Joy McLean, Senior Librarian at West College Scotland and CILIPS Trustee to inform and develop this resource. Throughout this pack you will meet them - and find top tips for how to use the creative prompts in your library setting.



When you see a sign like this, it's a top tip from the CILIPS team or Joy, with suggestions as to how you could use the creative prompt in your library, or encourage others to join in!



 [@CILIPScotland](https://twitter.com/CILIPScotland)

 [@cilip_scotland](https://www.instagram.com/cilip_scotland)

 [@WCSLibraries](https://twitter.com/WCSLibraries)

 [@wcslibraries](https://www.instagram.com/wcslibraries)

"As the beating hearts of our communities and often the only free-to-access space where diverse groups gather to share ideas and inspire one another, the link between libraries and creativity is stronger than ever today.

"Enjoy delving into this Libraries Pack and discovering all the ways in which library creativity can thrive. Let your light shine bright this January, library staff. We know you're more than up for the Challenge..."

Kirsten MacQuarrie from CILIPS.
CILIPS provide advocacy, support, and training for Scotland's librarians and information professionals.

"Creating communities as well as playful activities and memorable moments, The January Challenge is a challenge in its most positive sense: challenging social isolation, loneliness, lack of agency and the low horizons that understandably result from troubling times – just as our 1200 strong membership of library professionals seeks to do every day through their vital work.

In the words of civil rights activist Ella Baker, now illuminating Glasgow Women's Library thanks to the amazing artwork of Rabiya Choudhry: 'Give light and people will find a way'. At what sometimes feels like the gloomiest time of the year, our libraries can join in with the January Challenge to light up the entire month for all those we serve."

Kirsten MacQuarrie, CILIPS

Rabiya Choudhry, 'Give light and people will find the way (Ella Baker)' (2022) installation view Glasgow Women's Library 2023. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Isobel Lutz-Smith



What is a Creativity Champion?

A Creativity Champion is someone who promotes and facilitates creativity in their community, whether that's within a team at work or a group closer to home. Anyone can be a Creativity Champion, and 64 Million Artists offer resources, training and sharing spaces year-round to support Creativity Champions to do their great work.

Our data shows that creativity can support us to feel listened to and confident to affect change. When Creativity Champions nurture creativity in library, education, health, social care, workplaces and community settings it impacts the millions of people that interact with them. Creativity can be fun and frivolous, (and often the creative prompts in The January Challenge will offer you a joyful 5 minutes!), but it is also a powerful, necessary ingredient that moves us forward and makes things happen. We hope that the creative prompts in this Pack will offer you, and the people you work with, 31 opportunities to be curious about their creativity.

"It is almost impossible for most of us to change a system from the top down. But we can change a system one relationship at a time. One idea at a time. One moment of holding hope over despair. And that's what I think creativity does for us. It gives us a moment to believe in something new and imagine how things can be different. And if we practice that skill, we can hold those moments for longer until they become real."

Jo Hunter, CEO of 64 Million Artists





"At West College Scotland Libraries, we have taken part in The January Challenge since 2020 and our involvement has grown year on year.



It is now part of our annual programming, helping to build confidence in developing the scope of creative and wellbeing support within our libraries.

The January Challenge really lends itself to facilitation through libraries. Whether public, school, academic, health or part of another sector, libraries focus on the specific community they serve, delivering services and programming for the benefit of that community. With ever more stretched resources, that is not always easy. If you haven't already tried The January Challenge, we wholeheartedly recommend giving it a go.

We are all creative!"

Joy McLean, Senior Librarian at
West College Scotland

 [@joydmclean](https://www.instagram.com/joydmclean)



Using your Pack

Sharing the creative prompts

“From highlighting each day’s challenge on your library noticeboard and social media channels to incorporating the activities into your beloved Bookbug sessions and existing craftivism clubs, or even using each day’s prompt to tempt in anyone yet to cross the library threshold, the only limit is your imagination!”

Getting prepared!

“At West College Scotland, we’ve tried different approaches but one of the most effective is to set up a ‘creation station’ providing various materials including paper, pens, and pencils along with that day’s challenge. This is available to anyone who wants to take part, but we’ve also organised sessions targeted towards specific groups.”

Measuring impact

Knowing who takes part and how it makes them feel is helpful learning for all of us, and means that we can keep co-creating a campaign that works. Keep in touch with us using the contact information at the back of the Pack - and find an accessible survey to share with your groups.

Accessing support

We are running a free training session from 10:30-12:00pm on 22nd November to support you to use this Pack. Sign up at 64millionartists.com, (and find a recording on the website after the dates.)

We encourage you to share online using #TheJanuaryChallenge to connect with other Champions.

Facilitating creative activity



You might like to facilitate creative sessions throughout January (and beyond!) Here are a few key top tips we've learned along the way!

Creative prompts shouldn't take longer than 5-10 minutes each, but sometimes, people like to spend longer on them. Do you want to factor in social, or relationship-building time? Let participants know what to expect from the session - including timings and breaks (make sure you stick to them!).

Value everyone's contribution. Let all voices be heard and encourage everyone to participate. People feel vulnerable being creative because they don't want to look silly or be judged. Create an atmosphere in which people feel they can trust, take a risk and have a go without making a fool of themselves. We all have different skills, abilities and challenges. Keep open-minded about people's comfort levels around reading, writing and drawing. Allow people to respond to the creative prompt in their own way.

"There's never any pressure for anyone to complete all 31 daily challenges. Sometimes we choose specific challenges that we think most appeal to our specific community or that tie in with something else that is happening."



You have the agency over how you use the creative prompts. Pick and choose your favourites, adapt them, switch up the order - make it work for you (and your schedule!)

Work - and life! - is busy and we are navigating challenging times! Try to remove too much pressure or expectation. The creative prompts are warm invitations and not another 'to-do'.



Friendly competition is a winner! How many creative prompts can each staff member or visitor complete? Who is the first to complete the creative prompt?

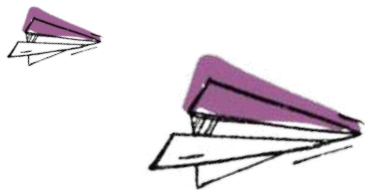
Spread the word! Your library is taking on The January Challenge - let the world know how much you value creativity and workplace wellbeing. Add it to your newsletters, your social channels and have some fun.

And some top tips!

Pool together any materials you might like to use in advance (paper, pens, post-it notes etc), making it easier to get up and go where possible.

Consider creating a gallery space to share responses to the creative prompts. This will get people talking - and encourage positive feedback to those sharing.

By modeling the activity (and not being perfect) you give others permission to take a risk and not worry about 'getting it right'.





"The beauty of The January Challenge is the variety of creative prompts on offer and flexibility in how they can be delivered. We've found that creative prompts can be easily adapted to specific settings and circumstances, for example, delivered in-person or online, either in a formal or more informal setting. It is available to anyone who wants to take part, but we've also organised sessions targeted towards specific groups and share the creative prompts on our social media channels..."



Joy McLean, Senior Librarian at
West College Scotland



Who has designed the creative prompts this year?

All of the creative prompts have been designed by individuals and community groups across the UK (including the CILIPS community!)

Learn more about the people involved throughout this Pack, and at 64millionartists.com/thejanuarychallenge.

Many of the faces you see below will be hosting events and workshops throughout January - we recommend signing up to our [mailing list](#) to be kept in the loop of what's happening!



"When you put something out there, either onto a piece of paper, or what you've actually done, it takes something out of your head and enables you to look at yourself. And that takes you beyond feeling satisfied; it takes you into a kind of serenity. And it may not last, but as you do that moment of looking, there is a kind of peace that comes to you."

Michael Rosen, speaking on the
64 Million Artists Podcast "Creativity Is..."



The Creative Prompts

“Enjoy delving into this Libraries Pack and discovering all the ways in which library creativity can thrive. Let your light shine bright this January, library staff. We know you’re more than up for the Challenge...”



Day 1

Poster for a Better Future

It's Day 1 of The January Challenge, and Day 1 of 2024! We have a new year ahead of us - what could happen? What change - big, or small - do you want to see in the world this year?

Think up a slogan or message that captures that change.

Now, take an A4 sheet of paper, and create a poster by filling it with your message. Your message should be bold, short and colourful.

Add drawings if you'd like to!



"Libraries are where communities come together to share, so why not use your posters to envisage what libraries of the future should look like? Display them in your library space and create a community art gallery!"



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: NadinaDidThis

Hello! My name is Nadina and I'm a Graphic Artist from Marseille currently based in London. I chose this creative prompt because I'm all about addressing the issues of our time and thinking about ways to solve them. I believe we all have the power to change things for the better and I want to encourage people to think about what they can change to make their life and the lives of the people they care about better.



@nadinadidthis



www.nadinadidthis.com

Day 2

From my Window

Find a window, perhaps it's at home, on a train, at work, or a shop window.

Take a moment to look through it.

Write a list of words to record your experience - perhaps you write down what you can see or hear, how you might describe the weather, temperature or light.

Use your list to inspire a sentence, short poem or sketch to capture this moment.



"What can you see out of your library window? Create a gallery of works curated by the community."



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Sally and Claire, Create Caerphilly Skills

We are Create Caerphilly Skills and Wellbeing working with local community groups, charities and running events for people to connect and create together. We offer a range of different arts and crafts for all ages, abilities and needs. All our sessions aim to be accessible, affordable and most importantly fun as we believe that art is for everyone.



@createcaerphilly



www.createcaerphilly.co.uk

Day 3 Dots

"Set up a 'creation station' in the library for this creative prompt. You could invite each person who comes into the library to add a dot to one collaborative picture, or join all the finished pictures together to make one huge image!"

Create a simple 'Pointillist' image, taking no more than 10 minutes.

How...? Use a circular stamp, your fingers, the end of a pencil, a brush or any other round object. Dip into paint, ink, or any other material available to you, and make your dots on a page.

Create a pattern or recreate an image of your choice. Try to use both hands to create the image. You could even try making 2 - one with your left hand and one with your right hand.

Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Helen Brady, Frimley Health Charity



We are collaborating with occupational therapists at Frimley Health NHS foundation trust to deliver creative activities that encourages use of hands, dexterity, vision, control. The sessions are for Stroke patients in our care. A rewarding exercise that helps assessment, stimulates your mind and aids communication.

 [@frimleyhealthcharity](https://www.instagram.com/frimleyhealthcharity)

 www.frimleyhealthcharity.org

Day 4


Letter from an Object

Write a short letter to yourself from the perspective of an object that you use, or maybe misuse everyday.



What object? A toothbrush, the car, the kettle, it could be anything.

What would the object say? is it annoyed, under-appreciated, is it running away? Maybe it has some advice for you.


Think like the object, BECOME the object! And give it a personality, a bit of character. You could write a few lines or maybe a whole page. I wrote mine like a poem, you can do whatever you like...



"This reminds me of *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt & Oliver Jeffers: Duncan's crayons, who feel unappreciated by him, have decided to quit and send him letters explaining how they feel. Reading this book to younger children could be a fun way of introducing the challenge and encouraging them to think about how their toys, books, clothes may feel."



"Write a love letter to your library book and tuck it inside as a beautiful bookmark for the next borrower!"



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Alex Wharton

I'm a writer, poet and author. I'm also the Children's Laureate of Wales 2023 -2025. I hope to inspire a positive connection to literature by sharing my own work and encouraging others to explore creative writing for themselves. I visit schools, libraries and festivals throughout the UK, and this has helped me develop workshops that are enjoyable and accessible.



@alexwharton



www.literaturewales.org

Day 5

Wait a Minute...



"Recycle old, unwanted books as artist's materials. We often give away withdrawn stock but any books that are left, are used for papercraft, collage etc. Give old books another life!"



Dig into your recycling box, or a messy drawer (I know you have one.) Here, you will find your artist's materials. Create a piece of artwork, using the materials at your disposal.

But before you start, lay out all your materials in front of you and pause for one minute. If you find it helpful, use the theme 'wait a minute' to inspire your creation!

Don't fire in right away, simply take some time to clear your thoughts and have a pause before you start your activity. If you've got the time, wait longer than a minute, take ten or twenty minutes to sit in a meditative state before seeing what creativity will come to mind.



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Scott Thomas

Hiya, I'm Scott Thomas, an artist and theatremaker working in the Southside of Glasgow. I'll be working with a group of creative people at The Wee Retreat CIC, a community wellbeing centre, throughout January to take part in the fun creative prompts. As we're in a peaceful space, we'll be exploring how relaxing our mind and bodies beforehand will affect the work we create and how we approach it.



@TheWeeRetreat



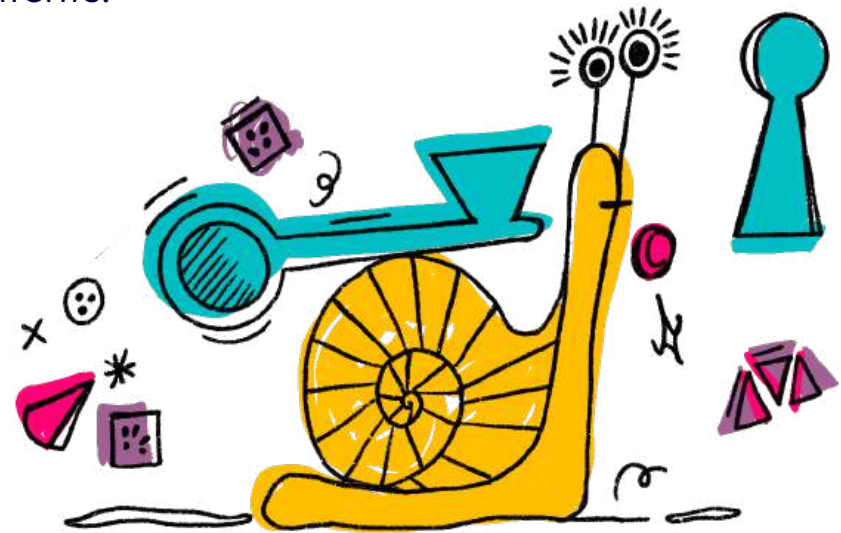
facebook.com/TheWeeRetreat

Day 6

A Journey with Purpose

Imagine that you are going on a journey with a purpose. It is up to you to decide on what the purpose is, and where, and how you will be journeying.

Draw the bag that you are taking with you, and label its contents.



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: A group of participants at Eden Court, Inverness

Eden Court Highlands is a cultural venue in the north of Scotland and the largest multi-arts organisation in the country. A group of participants from the varied public programme at Eden Court came together to co-create today's creative prompt!

 [@edencourttheatrecinema](https://www.instagram.com/edencourttheatrecinema)

 www.eden-court.co.uk

Day 7 (1/2)

10 Minute Storytelling

Use the method below to help a story appear - try not to spend longer than the time indicated!

1 minute:

Think up a central character to tell your story through, and any other supporting characters to be in your story. You don't have to get to the 'nitty gritty' - just name and gender is enough for now.

2 minutes:

Choose a location for your story to be told in. Initially write down what it looks like, but then I want you to imagine being in the location with your eyes closed: What can you hear, feel and smell?

3-5 minutes:

Now, build your scene using the DOTS formula designed to deliver the sort of conflict and drama that makes all plays, tv shows and films unmissable! I explain it through a very basic example story on the next page...



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Nathan Mann

I am a gay, autistic writer in London. I am working with other autistic people, teaching them how to create and write great stories! However, for today's creative prompt, it doesn't matter whether you're autistic or not - We all have stories inside us!



@nathangeorge99



linktr.ee/nathangeorge99

Day 7 (2/2)

10 Minute Storytelling

Desire - What does your central character (your 'protagonist') want? (eg: to make breakfast)

Obstacle - What is stopping them from getting what they want? (eg: the kitchen door is locked)

Tactic - What do they do to try and overcome the obstacle? (eg: kick the kitchen door down to get their food!)

Success? - Often stories work best if they are not successful straight away, because this helps to keep the drama up. Even better - does your tactic not only fail, but create a bigger obstacle? (I've hurt my foot, AND I'm hungry!)

BONUS - 3 mins: If you have time, have a go at creating a scripted scene between 2 or 3 characters that tells your DOTS story. If there is just 1 character - it could be a monologue script.

Remember - it's not about creating a perfect script - but about getting an idea on the page!

Day 8

Act it Out

Act out something you do everyday but in character.

Brush your teeth as a secret agent, pretend to be a strange monster with your family or make dinner as a witch brewing a potion...



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Simon Batchelor

Hi I'm Simon, Artistic Director of The Drama Geezers, an arts education company championing more drama in the classroom, at home and in the workplace. We immerse children and adults in playful story worlds, turning rooms into safe spaces where everyone can play, explore and create together. We are passionate about challenging the stereotypes about male involvement in play and creativity and believe that there is immense strength in men embracing their playful side.



@dramageezers



www.dramageezers.com/

Day 9

Your Warmest Friend

"Did you know that libraries offer a warm space to everyone in their local community? Why not thank the library staff for their warm welcome today with a heartwarming greeting?"



Who is the warmest person you know?

Think about what makes them so warm. Maybe it's their smile.

Draw a simple picture of the warmest person you know, in any style you like.

What colour do they remind you of?

Add a splash of that colour to represent what makes them such a warm person.



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: The Warm Welcome Campaign

Hello, I'm David Barclay from The Warm Welcome Campaign. We provide Warm Welcome Spaces for communities right across the UK. Our campaign began last winter as an emergency response to the worst cost-of-living crisis in 70 years. 7000 Warm Spaces helped over half a million people struggling to keep warm amidst soaring heating costs and inflated prices for food and necessities. We offer endless cups of tea, warmth and welcome to anyone struggling to get through winter alone.



@warmwelcomeuk



www.warmwelcome.uk

Day 10 (Page 1/3)

Your Earliest Memory



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Michael Rosen

Hello! I'm Michael Rosen. I'm a writer and broadcaster - You might know me from my books for children which include "We're going on a Bear Hunt" and "Chocolate Cake". Younger people seem to know me as "the meme guy", as some lads in America edited a poem of mine about hot potatoes into a meme of me saying the word "Nice" in my North London accent.

What are your first memories?

Can you tell someone what these are and ask them to write them down as you tell them?

Can you write them down as if you're telling them to someone?

These first ways of talking are often the best ways of writing them down - but not always.
You can, if you want to, use them, as a way of writing poems.

What is a poem?

A poem is a way of writing that makes what the writing memorable.

What does memorable mean? Easy to remember and worth remembering.

Can you make your first memories sound memorable?

One way to do it, is to not write in sentences!

What?

Yes, as we're talking about first memories, these are often like fragments, impressions, blurry sensations.
Sentences are not very good for expressing that..

Day 10 (Page 2/3)

Your Earliest Memory

You might just want to play with these fragments putting them down on the page, one below the other.
If you can remember what someone is saying, put that down exactly as you remember it.
You may remember what you said or thought. Put that down exactly as you remember it.

What other ways do you know which can make writing memorable?
Using repetition to give things a rhythm. Songs do this all the time.
You can imitate the way songs repeat phrases and lines. (A phrase is two or more words)

Rhythm and rhyme are ways we make things memorable too.
One way to help you with this is to think of a song you like and imitate how the song uses rhythm, rhyme and repetition. Think of Bob Dylan or Adele or Stormzy or anyone you like.

Another way to work on your first memories, is to pick a word or phrase from that first memory and play with it.
Play with it? How?

Let's say if your first memory is sitting on a beach. And you remember the sand and the wind.
You can play with those words and that phrase:

Sand and wind. Wind and sand.
Sand in the wind. Wind in the sand

There! It's that easy....



Day 10 (Page 3/3)

Your Earliest Memory

One thing about memories that's really interesting is that you can write about them as if you are IN the scene from the past, or you can write about them from now, remembering what it was like.

Or you can write about both. I call this 'writing about yourself as if you're looking at yourself in the swimming pool'.

So, you can think of you IN the memory. You can write about it along the lines I've suggested.

But mingled with it, or after it, you can write about, how you think about it now.

Maybe your view of the other people in your memory has changed? Or your view of yourself has changed?

Or your view of time has changed?



"Provide pens and sticky notes. Ask each person to write a word or two associated with their first memory on a note. Spread the notes out and rearrange to make a poem. This could also be done online using a whiteboard app with sticky notes."

"If an entire stanza is daunting, why not just add a word, or two...or three? Have each person who enters the library contribute a single line and by the end of the day you'll have a poem written by the community!"



@michaelrosenyes



www.michaelrosen.co.uk



**"The creative prompts provide a formal
framework for people to use as a
foundation to let their imagination soar."**

Creativity Champion 2023

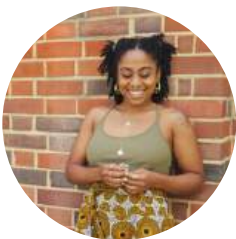


Day 11

Using your Voice

Think of a song that you love or that is meaningful to you. Try singing or humming it, alone or with a loved one.

If you like - have a go at singing along with the song in the video, on your own or in a group.



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Ava Riby-Williams

Hi, I'm Ava! I'm an artist and a creative facilitator living in London, and I feel passionate about using creativity as a form of healing. I've been following this intention in my work for over 7 years, usually with communities who have experienced marginalisation. I particularly love using song and movement to tell stories of culture, belonging, and to express whatever it is that we're feeling.



@avazarah



avazarah.com

Day 12

FanZine

Today - we are creating a 'FanZine', out of a single sheet of A4 paper. To fold a pocket zine you're going to need a sheet of A4 paper and a pair of scissors. To create your zine, follow this [video tutorial here](#).

Now you have your 'pocket zine', fill it with a list of things that you love - your favourite books, films, people, places, foods. You could do one thing per page, and include an illustration, cut-out picture, or a description of why you love this thing.

"Ask your patrons to donate their zines to create the foundations of your zine library collection!"



"Set up a 'creation station' in the library with paper, pens, scissors, glue, anything that lends itself to zine making. Library resources may provide inspiration for themes. Groups could collaborate with each person creating one page of the zine."



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Lea Cooper

Lea is a zine maker and zine librarian at Edinburgh Zine Library. They make zines about all sorts of things, like their experiences of mental health and neurodivergence, their love of cycling, or the best places to get vegan food in Kirkcaldy, where they live with their wife and cat. They encourage other people to explore making zines through in-person and online workshops.



@lilethjcooper



www.zinejam.com

Day 13

That Peaceful Place



"Libraries often provide safe spaces, and books can provide a sense of peace and calm. Why not share a favourite book or poem that brings you a sense of peace and calm."



Think of a place that brings you a sense of peace and calm. Find a way to capture that place. Sketch it, describe it in words - or, if you're able to visit that place today - take a photograph of your favourite thing there.

"I like to go hiking with my family whenever we can. This is the ultimate escapism for me, but also allows for me to clear my mind and become unstuck from the challenges in the week. I'm always taking pictures on my phone if the places that we have been hiking and this brings me some inspiration. Let today's creative prompt take you to that peaceful place...!"



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Ica Headlam (We Are Here Scotland)

Hello my name is Ica Headlam I'm a Creative Practitioner based in Aberdeen Scotland. I'm the founder of We Are Here Scotland which aims to amplify the voices of Global Majority artists and creatives across Scotland's creative industries. I'm also a strong advocate for representation across the arts and value the importance of open and honest dialogue.



@weareherescot



www.weareherescotland.com

Day 14

Hello, Me

Find a piece of paper, card or anything you can draw on. Close your eyes and slowly take 3 deep breaths in and out. Now ask yourself “How am I feeling in THIS moment?” See if you can feel the sensation in your body and also name it.

Now choose one or two colours that you feel drawn to. Pick up a pen, pencil, crayon, or paint in those colours and draw or paint a shape that represents how you are feeling. (It could be a solid square, a swirl, or a series of connected shapes, for example). Let your intuition guide you.

Your drawing or painting can be as sparse or as detailed and decorated as you want. And you can spend as little or as much time as you want on it. Check to see if what you have drawn feels complete.

Remember, there is no right or wrong way to do this exercise.
The purpose here is to express yourself in whatever way feels intuitive.



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Sonal Taank

Hi, I'm Sonal. I'm a Personal Power Coach and Artist based in London and I'm on a mission to help people break free from stress and live their most fully expressed lives. When I was going through a challenging time, I intuitively turned to the things that brought me joy as a child, and drawing and painting was that for me.



@blissfullysonal



msha.ke/blissfullysonal

Day 15

Rainy Day Dance

Get dressed for the weather, go outside, and dance!

If you're staying inside to take part in this creative prompt then open the curtains and enjoy the grey, rainy, sky as you move!

"Why not walk to your local library whilst taking part in this challenge? Bonus point if you find a book with a wonderful watery cover and borrow it to keep you company for the rest of this rainy day!"



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Krystal Lowe



Hello, I'm Krystal Lowe! I'm a dancer, choreographer, writer, director, and a mum of one. I focus on seeking innovation ahead of perfection while empowering creatives and communities. Today's creative prompt is a Rainy Day Dance! For me, dance and movement are one and the same. All movement is dance and all dance is simply movement!



@krystalslowe



krystalslowe.com/

Day 16

If I knew then...



Think about a challenge or negative experience that you have overcome or come to terms with.

Write a survival guide for your younger self or for others who are where you once were. What are your 'top tips' for survival?

Perhaps it's a survival guide to losing some - or all - of your hearing or sight; being bullied; facing a scary diagnosis; losing a loved one; having long covid; or experiencing a relationship breakup. You could illustrate your words and create a road map to getting where you are today - highlighting key positive experiences, information gathered, and people who helped or influenced you.



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Angie Aspinall

Angie Aspinall is the founder of #HearingLossHour - an online peer support group for people with hearing loss. #HearingLossHour takes place at 1pm on the first Tuesday of the month on Twitter/X. People join in to share support, experiences, and tips about living well with hearing loss. @HearingLossHour now has over 3,000 followers on Twitter/X.



[@hearinglosshour](https://twitter.com/hearinglosshour)



[@aspinallink](https://twitter.com/aspinallink)

Day 17

An Important Date



Create a 2 by 4 grid of 8.

In each box, write a number that represents a special date to you. For example, if you were born on the 27th, you might write '27', if you like the month of March, you might write '3' because it's the 3rd month of the year.

Fill the grid with 8 numbers, 1 in each box. Now - connect each number by drawing a line from the end of one to the beginning of the other.

Each number should be connected to another one, and when you're finished you should have an abstract looking design! Add colour over the lines or in between the spaces to create an abstract print, shaped by your special numbers.



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: FieldLane Primary School and Jo Cox Foundation

The Jo Cox Foundation makes meaningful change on issues that the late Jo Cox MP was passionate about. Underpinning our work is the understanding that we have more in common than that which divides us. FieldLane School in Batley works with the Jo Cox Foundation. Luckily for us - the year 6 students at FieldLane have designed today's creative prompt!

 fieldlane.polarismat.org.uk

 www.jocoxfoundation.org

Day 18

Your Space

"Why not ask your local Green Library to use some of their recycled materials for this challenge?"



Imagine a space you can call your own, it has four walls, a floor and a ceiling - what would this look like for you? Today's creative prompt is to craft that space to life!

To create your 3D 'space', you could:

- .. dig through your recycling for a small box to work on
- .. have a look for a cube net online to copy onto paper
- .. find any other container at home to temporarily (or permanently!) use
- .. create the container from materials like clay or plasticine
- .. or if you'd like to work 2D, simply divide a piece of paper into six to represent the walls, floor and ceiling of the 'space'

You can cut and stick, draw, embroider, paint, write on or sculpt your 'space' - whatever is handy to you.

Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Zesty's Collective

Hi, we're Zesty's Collective - a group of queer people in Nottingham putting on events (craft afternoons, creative workshops and meets) for other LGBTQIA+ and questioning people. Each event holds queerness at heart, away from loudness, nightlife, and a need for spending.

 [@zestyscollective](https://www.instagram.com/zestyscollective)



Day 19

Word Art

Choose a word that you're drawn to today, for whatever reason. Your creative prompt today is to create that word in calligraphy-style writing, drawing or using any objects or tools you like.

The word calligraphy comes from two Greek words stuck together, kallos, meaning "beauty," and graphein, meaning "to write" — literally "beautiful writing."

How can you create your chosen word in a way that feels 'beautiful' to you?

Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: HMP Berwyn

This creative prompt is from prisoners in HMP Berwyn, a male Category C prison situated in North Wales. The men in HMP Berwyn have been involved in creative workshops where they have had the opportunity to design creative activities for them to complete in their cells, using the resources available to them. They discussed how these activities could be a source of meaningful connection with their families on visits. Have a go at completing one of the prompts they created.



"Try opening a book and choosing a word on the page that jumps out at you. If you have access to a computer, you could try typing the word in different fonts in a word document until you've filled up the page. Or, look to the fonts on books for inspiration! How do different fonts change the way the word looks and feels?"



Day 20

Poem in a Bottle

Think about your favourite TV show or story. How did it move you, how did it make you feel? Whether you cried or laughed or went on a grand adventure, in some way you were transported and so many of us sometimes wish we could bottle up that feeling. Well, let's try to do just that!

Grab a piece of paper, or hit record on your phone. Write a love letter to your favourite show. To get started, think about a favourite character or an important element in the storyline.

For example, in many asian dramas shoes are important, they foreshadow so much about characters and that's to do with the cultural significance of shoes in asian cultures, particularly giving them as a gift. So, zoom out and apply your culture, heritage and inspirations to your writing! Your writing could be paragraphs long or simply three lines. If it can make you feel the way you did while watching a show, then you have bottled-up that feeling with your words.



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Pavani Konda

I am midlands based but the community I connect with is online and from all over the U.K. I'm a content creator, a writer and generally a storyteller that also loves to talk about Asian dramas. I'm now trying to connect people who also loved Asian dramas in a more creative space.

 [@herpoetryplaylist](https://www.instagram.com/herpoetryplaylist)

 [@herpoetryplaylist](https://www.tiktok.com/@herpoetryplaylist)



"Once again the Challenge provided ways into creative thinking and exploration and interpretation of ideas. We use the Challenge as a way to fire our students imagination."

Creativity Champion 2023



Day 21

Card Tower Challenge

Build the tallest tower you can, made from playing cards, in 60 seconds! (If you don't have playing cards, get creative and use something similar - like cards from a game, small pieces of card, or greetings cards.)

If you have more time, build a tower from another material. What can you make?



"Make a tower with a selection of books from the library. Ask each person who comes into the library to add a book to the tower. How high is the tower by the end of the day? Look at the titles on the spines – does the tower make a spine poem from the titles?"



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Nigel Clarke, Dadvengers

Hi I'm Nigel, Founder of Dadvengers. An organisation rooted in supporting dads on their parenting journey to foster better family outcomes. We have a podcast, run weekly Dad walks, events and a blog.



@dadvengersofficial



dadvengers.com/

Day 22

Dress Up Day

Dress today as if you were going to a party. It might be a beautiful tie, or scarf, or you might put flowers in your hair. Or pull on your favourite coloured jumper or glittery shoes. Whatever combo makes you smile, go for it.

In other words, don't save the best until last. This world needs people who are feeling passionate, in what they wear and what they do. This is a chance to wear your 'heart on your sleeve'.

Dress today as if you were going to a party and see how the party comes to you. And don't forget stay at home Pyjama Parties. PJs are allowed too!



"If you'd like, dress as a character from a favourite story, poem or song. Perhaps you could strut your stuff in a library fashion show! Bonus points if you add any bookish accessories."

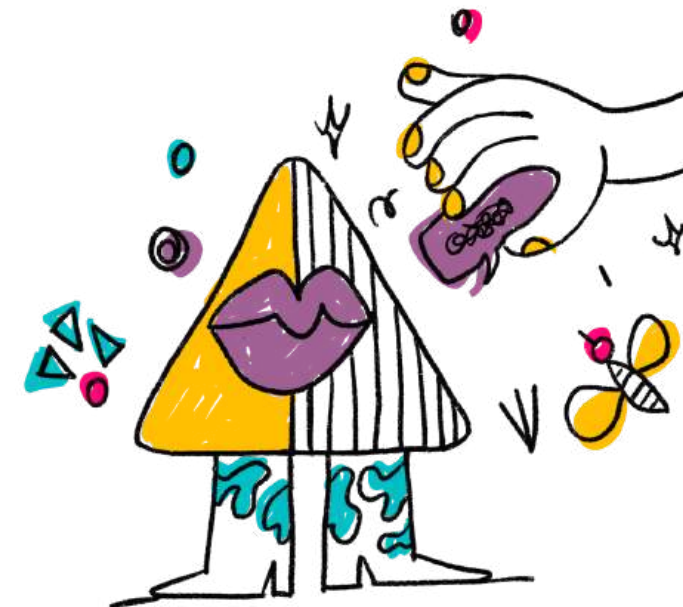


Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Laura Tan

Hello, I'm Laura. I live in St Ives, Cornwall. What we wear can change the way we move, how we think and how we feel about ourselves. It's just one way to express our creativity. I'd love you to join me. Who knows, you might find yourself at the start of a magical adventure?



[lauratan5409](https://www.instagram.com/lauratan5409)



41.

Day 23

Shape Shifting

"Take a photo of your figure in the same spot of the library throughout the day—see how their surroundings change!"



Create a character using kitchen foil, a toy or magazine cutouts.

Place them on a surface that you like and take a photo with a phone or camera. Move the character a tiny bit and take another photo, try to keep your camera in the same position. Repeat this as many times as you want.

Flick through your photos really fast and see your character come to life!



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Deirdre McKenna

Hello artists and friends, My name is Deirdre and I'm an artist based in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I work for the Black Box on a project called Express Yourself Social Cafe. We are a creative group of disabled people, who meet once a week to enjoy art and togetherness. We have fun and want to share our talents with each other and the world.



facebook.com/Blackmoonblackbox

Day 24

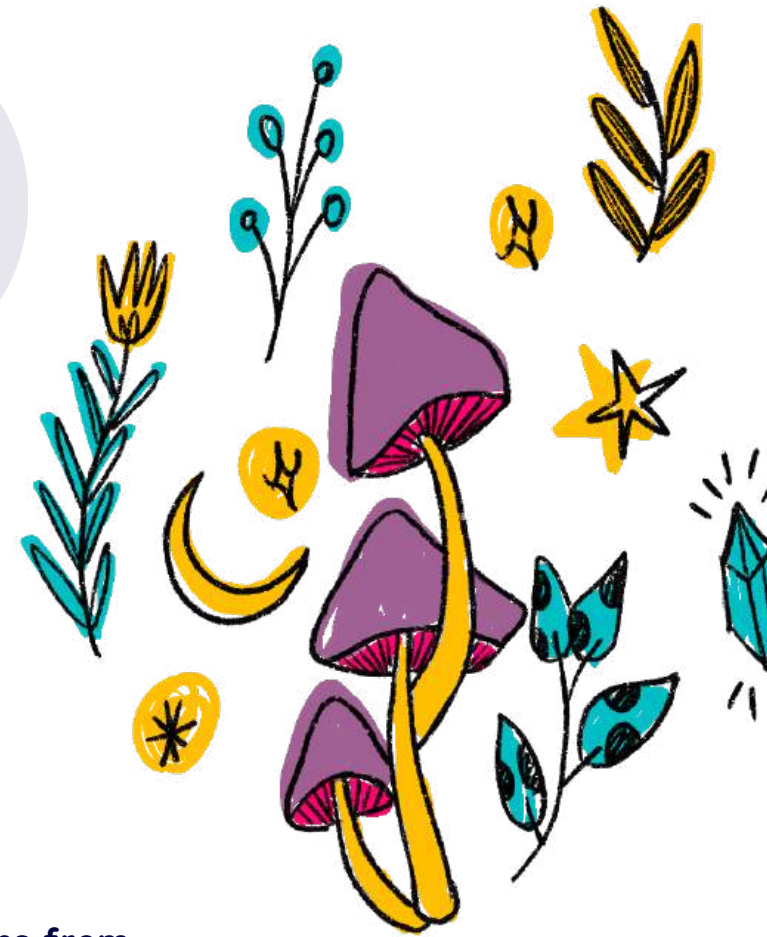
Shadow Moments



"It's our turn! Set up in your luminescent library, perch in a sunny spot and see what shadow moments you can capture! Our team will also be visiting our own local branches to join this incredible nationwide co-creation, popping in to play along with our friends at Langside and Rutherglen Libraries. Check CILIPS social media for further details – we'd love to see you there!"

Today, we're playing with shadows! Use a light (or hopefully, the sunshine!) to create a shadow of something on a piece of paper. You could create a shadow using your hands or your body, a flower, or an object beside you.

Trace the shadow to create an outline, and use this outline to create an abstract print of your object.



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Leah Higgins from Scottish Libraries (CILIPS)

As the beating hearts of our communities and often the only free-to-access space where diverse groups gather to share ideas and inspire one another, the link between libraries and creativity is stronger than ever today. The team at CILIP Scotland know library-led creativity truly can change lives.



@CILIPScotland



www.cilips.org.uk

Day 25

Bring it to Life



Choose an object that is important to you. It can be anything at all - something that has sentimental value, or something you use everyday. Begin free writing whilst thinking about the object and see where your words take you.

Free writing is writing without thinking too much about the contents - just letting the words come as they pop into your thoughts. Some people find that this can help 'creative block'.

The creative prompts below might help get you started;

- Think about what you can See, Feel, Smell, Hear or Taste whilst holding or observing the object.
- Think about how the object prompts additional feelings internally - your heartbeat, muscle tension, a spark in your brain... Spend up to 10 minutes writing.

You can read your words back, or leave them there.

Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Kate Betty Scott



Hello! With the warmest of greetings. I've chosen today's creative prompt because I was chosen to be one of eight artists who have experienced homelessness in the UK to work for Arts and Homeless international, I have thought a lot about objects I had whilst homeless - their semiotics, their meanings, usefulnesses and how they made me feel.



on.soundcloud.com/nH48W

Day 26

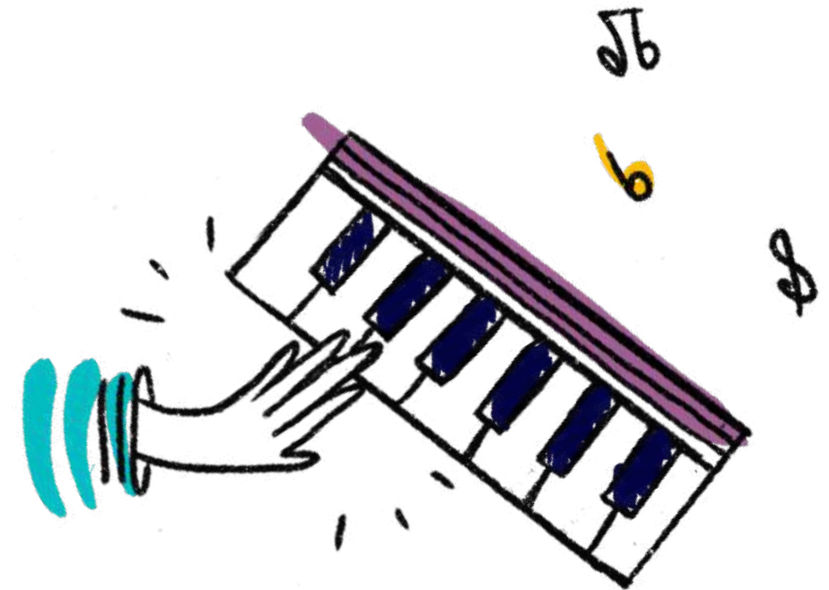
What Music Inspires

People experience music and sound in different ways. How do you experience music?

[Click here](#) to find and a piece of music I have created.


Your challenge is to create a mark on a page in response to the music, that interprets what you're hearing or experiencing. Think about what textures or shapes it might inspire. Try to allow yourself to create in unison with the music.

Alternatively, tune in to the hum of any noise vibrations, near or far, you can feel around you, what marks would you make in response to them?



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Nathan Lawrence

Hi people, My names Nathan and I'm an artist/musician based in Wolverhampton. I've always worked closely with artist and musician societies within my city but I've never brought both communities together, but I'll be doing just this with The January Challenge! Looking forward to getting creative with you...

 [@neonewonderer](#)

 [facebook.com/neonethewonderer](#)

Day 27

You Learn Something New Everyday



Find a way to learn something new, today. This creative prompt has come from a workshop at Hazelgrove Court Care Home, and is designed by Betty. Betty first picked up a paintbrush in her 80's and is now learning to garden and grow veggies.

What intrigues you today? Follow your intrigue! Could you learn a new word in a different language, learn a new fact about a country you've been to (or not been to)? Could you learn something new about a friend, by asking 'what is there that I don't know about you?'



"Pick up a book about something new to you in your local library, or if you're feeling brave introduce yourself to a new person- lets hear it for human libraries!"



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Hill Care Homes

Hill Care Care Homes is a collection of 36 Residential Care Homes across the North of England. We specialise in providing residential, nursing and dementia care, personalised for you and your family. Planned daily routines as well as stimulating activities and events, create a positive experience for the whole family.



@hill_care



www.hillcare.net/

Day 28

Find a Tree

Visit a tree - or trees! - in a park, woods, forest, or find videos or images of trees.

How do you feel? What catches your attention, visually, sound, smell, taste. Stay with the trees or return home to draw, write, express in sound what the experience was for you.

Take a second look. What is different this time?

"Speaking of trees... why not use your local library to research your family tree? Accessing ancestry services and records with the guidance of your friendly, local librarian!"



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Sian Williams

Hi, I'm Sian and work as a Wellbeing Officer for Golygfa Gwydyr, a non-profit group in Llanrwst, North Wales. We are very lucky to have a site up in the local forest to hold a variety of wellbeing sessions from sound baths and foraging to wildlife ID. We currently work with the local community (all ages), housing association groups and veterans.



facebook.com/GolygfaGwydyrLlanrwst



www.golygfagwydyr.org

Day 29

Self-Portrait



Make a portrait of yourself using a medium that you're drawn to - this could be a drawing, a sculpture, or even a piece of writing or a short film.

It can also be realistic (for example, a drawing that looks like you) or totally abstract (something that represents you without looking in any way similar to you).

Create something as unique as you are!



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Ffion Pritchard

My name is Ffion Pritchard - I'm an artist, filmmaker and facilitator from North Wales! I am interested in how art can benefit society, be it through community-engaged art, art in healthcare or through the cathartic power of storytelling, humour and entertainment.

 [@ffionartist](https://www.instagram.com/ffionartist)

 [@ffionartist](https://twitter.com/ffionartist)

Day 30

Reimagine Your Favourites

We're coming up to the end of The January Challenge, and endings are on our mind!

Today, Shilpi invites you to choose your favourite movie or book. If that is tricky - what is the first movie or book that comes to mind? Go with that!

Now - can you recall the ending? Your creative prompt today is to re-imagine the ending of your chosen story.

You could draw or write your new ending...



"If you're having problems choosing a favourite, why not browse the shelves of your local library for inspiration?"



(Shilpi drew the illustrations throughout this Pack!)



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: Shilpi Sahi

Shilpi is an illustrator & animator who hails from India. Since early childhood, she has been fascinated with illustrated books, animated movies and comics. After working for 3 years as a marketing professional, she pursued her masters in character animation for Central Saint Martins, UAL. Her style of illustration is bright and quirky, in other words, exactly like her.

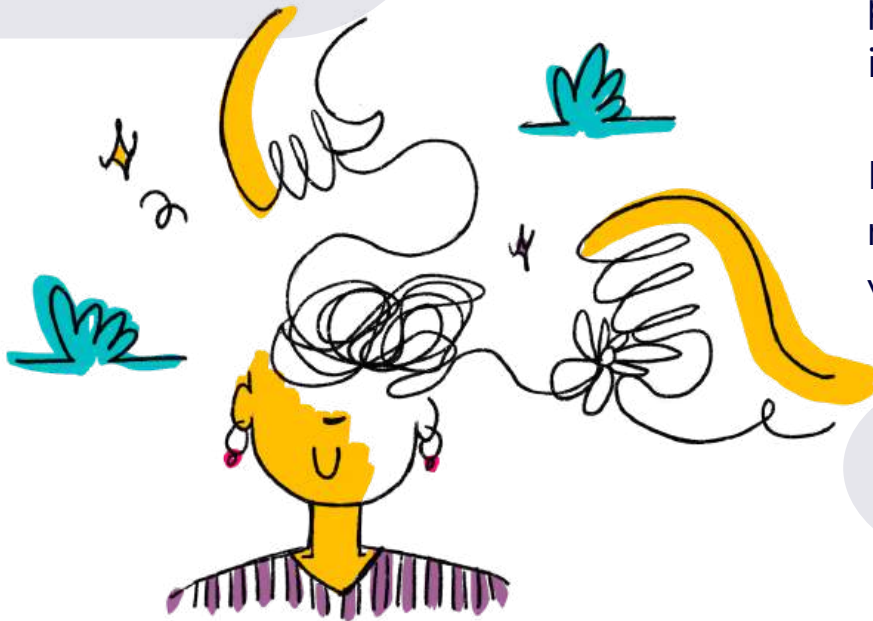


Day 31

Creativity Is...



"Here's an opportunity to hold an event to celebrate and reflect on the month's creative prompts!"



What does 'creativity' mean, to you? That's a big question - we know! Whether you've done 1 creative prompt, or explored every day, today we are inviting you to celebrate YOUR creativity.

Finish the sentence 'Creativity Is...' and share your response. Use the downloadable poster to inspire you or let your creativity do the talking!

"Creativity is coming together to connect, reflect, share and inspire each other, just like every day in your local library."



Today's creative prompt has been dreamed up by: 64 Million Artists

'Creativity' means all sorts of different things to different people and shows up everywhere we look. We are curious about how creativity relates to change - how can we do things differently to create small, and big, ripples of change in our world - and, how can all 64 Million (and counting..) of us, across the UK feel creative, inspired and confident to be a part of that change. Thank you for joining us this January!

Share what Creativity Is... to you!

Thousands of people take part in The January Challenge and we love connecting with those people online. Join in online by sharing your response to what creativity is to YOU. Who knows, you might just inspire other libraries to jump in too! You can print the next page, fill it in and take a picture with it. Post it and tag #TheJanuaryChallenge

Find us online:



[FB closed group](#)



[@64millionartists](#)



[@64millionartists](#)



[@64M_Artists](#)



[@64millionartists](#)



[64-million-artists](#)



[64millionartists.com](#)

And on email:



hello@64millionartists.com



CREATiV!Ty is ...

#TheJanuaryChallenge

More printables available at 64millionartists.com/thejanuarychallenge



Thank you!

We hope you enjoyed The January Challenge 2024.

We really value feedback - and we really listen to it! Understanding how this Pack has worked for you and your library will help us to continue to reach more people in more places.

Click below for two short surveys that we'd be grateful for you to complete or share. You could be in with a chance of winning a personalised creative hamper!

[A survey for Creativity Champions using this Pack](#)

[A survey to share with participants you engaged and took part](#)

Remember to [sign up to our mailing list](#) for creative prompts, resources and opportunities, all year round. See you soon!