



## My Character: My Life, Your Life, Our Future

Name:

My School:

My Teacher:

My Class:

## Thinking Creatively

The My Character Resources have been developed by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues at the University of Birmingham, alongside young people across the UK. This is one of a set of 10 eResources, each aiming to encourage young people to be more future minded and to think about who they are and who they want to become.

The other eResources in this series are

Having a Dream  
Saving for the Future  
Having Patience  
Helping Others  
Being Determined  
Having Courage  
Working Together  
My Character – Review

Please go to [www.mycharacter.co.uk](http://www.mycharacter.co.uk) to download them.



# Thinking Creatively

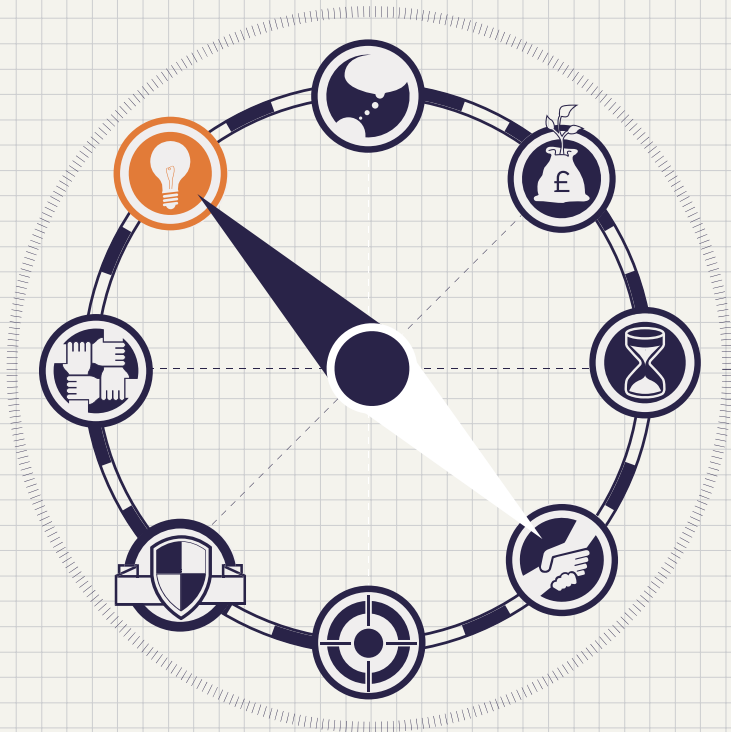
The use of imagination or original ideas to create something new

Creativity is the ability to think differently or originally. Most people think of creativity as being directly related to art and design – being an artist, a writer, or a director can involve looking at life differently then turning those experiences into a painting, a piece of writing or a film. They make connections between unusual things, express feelings and thoughts in new ways, and they try to step away from the 'usual' ways of thinking.

However, creativity is useful in other areas of life too. When you're confronted with a problem and none of the obvious solutions work, you will need to be creative to find another way of solving the problem.

To be creative, you need to be courageous and okay with making mistakes, with trying things that don't work, and being open to attempting things which other people think are strange or silly!

Current location:



### Keywords

- |             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| Imagination | Thinking outside the box |
| Art         | Never been done before   |
| Innovation  | Expressions              |
| Bright Idea | Thinking                 |
| Thoughts    | Dreaming                 |
| Inspiration | Offbeat                  |
| Brainwave   | Colour                   |
| New         | Sound                    |
| Original    |                          |

# My Inspirations

My favourite quote is:

Because:

'If everyone is thinking the same thing, then nobody is thinking'  
– George Patton

'Nothing ventured, nothing gained' – Anon

'Life is what you make of the future – it is the picture that you draw for yourself'. – Anon

'No one learns to make right decisions without being free to make wrong' – Anon

'Be creative, be an individual, be unique, be you' – Anon

'One man interacting creatively with others can move the world' – Anon

'The man who has no imagination has no wings' – Muhammed Ali

'Everything starts with someone's daydream' – Larry Niven

'Perhaps imagination is only intelligence having fun'  
– George Scialabra

'Life is a great canvas and you should throw all the paint at it you can' – Danny Kaye

# Inspirational People

J K Rowling (1965 - present day)

Author

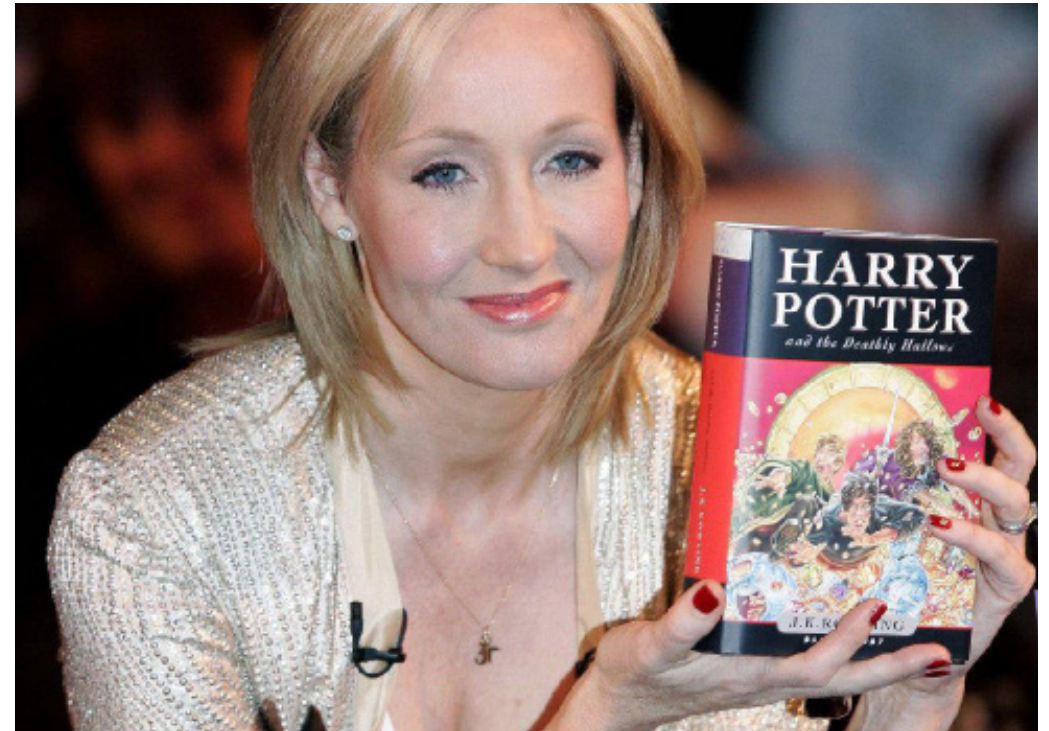
Joanne Rowling, better known as J. K. Rowling, is a British novelist who wrote the Harry Potter fantasy series. The 7 books follow the life and development of Harry Potter, a young boy who discovers that he is a Wizard. The series has won multiple awards, sold more than 400 million copies translated into numerous languages, and have been turned into films.

Born in 1965 in the UK, Joanne began writing stories when she was a small child, the first story being one about a Rabbit called 'Rabbit'. It was in 1990, on a four hour delayed train trip from Manchester to London when the idea for a story of a young boy attending a school of Wizardry came 'fully formed' into her mind.

Over the next 5 years, through various moves, jobs, the birth of her first child and the break down of her marriage, Joanne continued to write the story of Harry Potter. In 1993, Joanne was diagnosed with clinical depression and she and her daughter moved to Edinburgh to be nearer Joanne's sister. She contemplated suicide and felt 'like the biggest failure', jobless with a young child and with no hope for the future.

She took this situation and put all the energy she could find into finishing her manuscript. She took events and feelings in her own life and transformed it into her novel. She freely admits that Hermione is a caricature of her as a teenager, while Ron is inspired by a childhood friend, Sean. The grief she felt at the death of her mother was threaded into the book as Harry's sense of loss at his own parents' death, and the despair created by the Dementors was inspired by her experience of depression.

JK Rowling finished the manuscript for Harry Potter and the



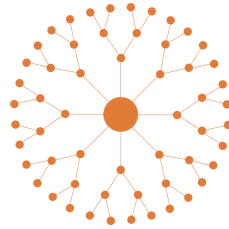
Philosopher's Stone in 1995. It was rejected by 12 publishers before finally being accepted by Bloomsbury and published. The 7 books and 8 films are incredibly successful and the Harry Potter brand is worth an estimated £7 billion.

In her books, JK Rowling created a fantasy world that holds millions of people across the globe completely spellbound, and has been credited with reigniting a love of reading in the young.

**There's no formula.** – J. K. Rowling

# Inspirational People

Chris Anderson (1957 - present day)  
Founder of TED



Chris Anderson has run the organisation TED, a set of conferences aiming to spread good ideas across the world, since 2001 and has shifted the focus from just Technology and Engineering to all original, interesting and exciting ideas and people.

Born in Pakistan in 1957, Chris Anderson moved around with his missionary parents, living in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India before attending a boarding school in Bath in the UK. He originally worked in journalism and publishing, but in 2001 he left Future Publishing and acquired TED, an organisation founded in 1984 which held an annual conference focusing on Technology and Design ideas. He took the TED model and shifted it to focus on 'fostering the spread of good ideas' and invited people from all walks of life and careers to share their ideas and tell their stories. Speakers have included Bill Clinton, Al Gore, Gordon Brown, Richard Dawkins, Larry Page (Google Founder) and many Nobel Prize winners.

He also introduced the TED Prize, the TED Fellows Program, TED-Ed and the TEDx program, allowing hundreds of independently organized TED-like events to be held around the world. TED talks are available for free on the internet and they are currently being translated so that the whole world can access and understand them.

Chris Anderson took the structure of TED and, thinking creatively, saw how it could expand and facilitate the sharing of creative, exciting and important ideas. Under Chris Anderson's stewardship, TED aims to provide a platform for the world's smartest thinkers, greatest visionaries and most inspiring teachers, so that millions of people can gain a better understanding of the biggest issues faced by the world. The mission statement of TED begins:



"We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and ultimately, the world. So we're building here a clearinghouse that offers free knowledge and inspiration from the world's most inspired thinkers, and also a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other."

Add a Picture of  
your inspirational  
person here

## Thinking Creatively: My Hero

Can you think of an inspirational person who has thought creatively? This could be someone famous, or someone you know personally and lives locally. Explain their life story and what they did that was creative:

23

## Activity 23: Design Your Own 'My Character' Logo

Use the space here to draw a logo for the 'My Character' Journal. Be creative and try to represent all your character traits and qualities.



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## Activity 24: Create A Life-board

Use the space here to really show your creativity. Use drawings or pictures you have got from somewhere else (newspapers / magazines) to create a collage to show what your future life will look like.



# What Does it Mean?

## Important words

### Character

is who you are. It is what makes you.....you. It is what you believe in and how you act with others and when on your own. It is your values and your virtues.

### Character trait

a feature of an individual or group of people, it tells you about their personality.

### Virtue

a quality that is considered desirable in a person, all the good things about you that can be used to describe your character

### The Eight Character Traits

#### Being determined

the ability to keep going whatever happens

#### Having a dream

having an aspiration, ambition or goal

#### Having courage

the ability to do the right thing even when it is difficult

#### Having patience

The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious.

#### Helping others

Make it easier or possible for someone to do something by offering them help

#### Saving for the future

the quality of using money and other resources carefully and not wastefully

#### Thinking creatively

the use of imagination or original ideas to create something new

#### Working together

the combined action of a group, especially when effective and efficient

### Other Character Traits

#### Ambitious

a person with a strong desire to want to achieve something or reach a certain goal

#### Anxious

a person that is often worried that something may go wrong or not as planned

#### Charismatic

a character trait that includes traits such as leadership, charm and persuasiveness, an ability to inspire other people. You might often hear people say that a certain person is a charismatic leader; it means that people are naturally drawn to them, they are inspiring.

#### Compassionate

a person with the desire to help others

#### Delayed gratification

the ability of a person to wait for something that they want and not get it straight away

#### Doggedness

determined in effort, a very determined person

#### Endurance

finishing an unpleasant or difficult activity or process without giving up

#### Fortitude

being courageous or brave in the face of something difficult, painful or scary

#### Frugal

being very careful with your money, buying only things that are needed

#### Honesty

the ability to be truthful, sincere and fair

#### Humble

to feel that you are no more important than anyone else no matter what the situation, even you are the Queen or richest person in the world

#### Humility

the ability to be modest and respectful

#### Innovative

a person that starts something new, creates something or comes up with new ideas or ways to do something

**Inspirational**

making you feel hopeful or encouraged

**Integrity**

the possession of firm principles, for example if you are willing to do the right thing – even if nobody is watching

**Optimistic**

being positive and confident about what will happen

**Prudent**

acting with and showing care for the future, a person who is careful and sensible

**Resilient**

the ability to recover quickly from something, for example change, misfortune, illness

**Risk averse**

the dislike of, and desire, to avoid any type of risk

**Sense of humour**

the ability to face danger, difficulty, uncertainty and fear

**Tenacious**

a person that has an opinion in a determined way

**Thrifty**

a person that is careful with money, avoids waste

**Tolerance**

the ability to be able to accept difference

**Will power**

ability to control your own thoughts and how you behave

**Other words you may not know****Academic**

relating to school or higher education

**Aspiration**

a strong desire to achieve something

**Audit**

looking at previous records to see if they are correct

**Credit card**

a card issued by a bank for the purchase of items on credit – money that a person does not physically have but they are borrowing from a bank and will pay interest on (a percentage of extra money on top of what they are paying for an item)

**Entrepreneur**

a person who organises and works in a business, and takes on a financial (money) risk doing so.

**Humiliation**

to feel very embarrassed or ashamed

**Mentor**

a person who advises and guides people

**Personal statement**

a piece of writing about you to describe your character, what you are good at and your passion, normally to give to universities or potential employers.

**Philanthropist**

a person who makes charitable donations to help others, in time or money

**Self-reflection**

to think about yourself and reflect on who you are

**Reflect**

to think about

**Resources**

an available supply that can

be drawn on when needed, for example a natural resource is a resource supplied by nature including water, wood and air. Vocational providing skills and education that prepare you for a job

**Volunteer**

a person who does something without receiving money for their work or being forced to do it, normally involves helping other people in some way

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Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Ashbourne

Meadowhead School, Sheffield

Saltley School, Birmingham

For more information about the My Character Project or the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, please contact [t.j.harrison@bham.ac.uk](mailto:t.j.harrison@bham.ac.uk) or see [www.jubileecentre.ac.uk](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk).

