

# Creative Thinking for Young Minds

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# Young Minds are different from adult minds!

- Children do not think the same way teens and adults do.
- Children become easily bored or even upset if they do not find what they are doing fun and interesting.
- In addition, children tend to find enjoyment in exciting, yet simple things and concepts such as superheroes, giant robots and the like.

# Spicing up Learning!

- To accommodate young minds, a framework should be used to help better teach them about creative thinking.
- Use picture books, bright colors, and concepts that appeal to children (robots, superheroes, etc) to help get them invested.
- Children learn much better when they are having fun doing it!

# Use stories that are easy to understand!

- Children will learn easier if they can clearly understand just WHAT they are being taught.
- For this reason, when using existing literature to teach, use books where the intended message and moral(s) are clearly defined and explicitly shown.
- Make sure the story is exciting and/or investing for a young mind!

# Examples of young mind literature

- To Kill a Mockingbird: Because the story is told to us through the eyes of young Scout, the young audience has someone they can immediately relate to. Scout's simple, but clear understanding of the conflict will allow students to better learn about racism, why it is bad, and how it can be fought.
- Akiko: This long running fantasy sci-fi adventure series is greatly entertaining, and is full of colorful, vibrant environments and characters that are sure to keep young minds interested.

# Combining young literature with learning

- Try to wrap your lesson plan around the young literature you have chosen.
- For example, in regards to *Akiko*, try to use the setting and/or characters as a framing for what you are trying to teach, such as heroism.
- Make sure the subject matter is easy to understand, but not so drab that the students become bored and/or upset.