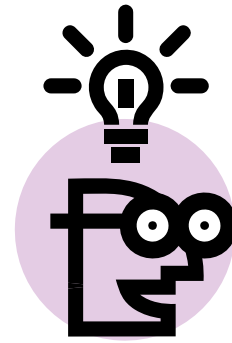


You *are* creative

(who the %\$#@! says you're not?)



"Creative power" or "creative imagination" is not only for "the artists of the world": painters, sculptors and so on. Teachers need the power of creativity too. So do programmers, engineers, scientists, et cetera. You can see the application of creative genius in many professional fields. Remember, for example, that it was a group of brilliant and geeky-to-the-core NASA engineers on the ground who, in 1970, were able to jury rig a solution to the life-threatening build up of carbon dioxide in the damaged Apollo 13 space craft. Their heroic fix, literally involving duct tape and spare parts, was ingenious improvisation, imaginative . . . and it was creative.

Even if you are not an artist, you are probably far creative than you think. Here are a few things to keep in mind when you're trying to come up with creative ideas:

1. The creative power is in us if we just give it a little time.
2. The creative spirit is in all of us *now*; it's who we are. We just need to look at the kids around us to be reminded that it's never too late, the child is still in us.
3. Big ideas often come to us during periods of "laziness" such as long walks on the beach, a jog through the forest, a bike ride or spending hours in a coffee shop reading the Sunday paper. It is during these times that your creative spirit is energized.
4. Busyness kills creativity. To do something better takes time, time away from simply keeping busy.
5. Sometimes we need solitude and a break for slowing down so that we may see clearly what's in our mind's eye.
6. Keep recharging yourself as children do, with inspired thinking. Where can you find it? A million places and in a million ways, but probably not by doing the same old routine, or by gossiping with staff in the break room about things that don't really matter.

