

# Introducing creativity

Gulnaz Mondegarian  
Karachi, Pakistan



My name is Gulnaz Mondegarian. I teach at St. Joseph's Convent High School and am presently teaching grade 5.

Teaching is a very challenging profession. If you want your students to become successful then it is important to introduce new techniques to help them based on their needs. One of my teaching subjects is English Literature. I used to teach my 9-10 year old students by reading the text, explaining the difficult words and then asking them questions but I realised that my children were not coming up with the type of answers that I expected from them. They were just using the exact words from the text and making innumerable grammatical mistakes. To bring about a change I introduced role-play into my lessons. My students act out the texts in the form of a play, taking on characters and making up dialogues. Introducing this creative element has helped my learners understand the texts and improve their speaking and grammar to some extent.



With composition writing, too, I felt the limited range of topics was restricting the students' creative flow of ideas, so I introduced free writing. At the start of each lesson I try to get my students to write for a few minutes on anything which comes to mind. It may be about an interesting weekend or something which they did or experienced during the week. This activity has proved beneficial in improving their creative writing. Many girls started reading their work aloud and sharing their experiences with others. Listening to those girls has helped others to gain the confidence to share their writings too.



### Reflection questions

Q1: How does creating dialogues from texts give learners a deeper understanding of the content or the characters?

Q2: How did free writing benefit Gulnaz's students? How could it benefit yours? Would you like to try it?



See Gulnaz telling her story on video:

<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/using-role-play-free-writing-introduce-creativity>

Source: Smith, R., Padwad, A., and Bullock, D. (eds.) In process. *Teaching in the Low-resource Classroom: Voices of Experience*. London: The British Council.