

# THE TEACHER TIMES

VOL 2 No. 5

OCTOBER 2006

## FOR THE CLASSROOM

### Getting the Creative Spark Back in your Classroom

Thomas Edison once said, "Genius is 10 percent inspiration and 90 percent perspiration." Unfortunately, teachers and students often get stuck with 100 percent perspiration and zero percent inspiration. Here are some tips to help inspire creativity in your classroom.



**Bubbles:** Many important discoveries have evolved as a result of lighthearted play. Engage your students in some impromptu play, while priming their minds by blowing a stream of bubbles over their heads. Better yet, distribute some bubble bottles around the room and fill your classroom with sudsy shapes!

**Costumes, wigs, and masks oh my!** Create some drama in your classroom by incorporating costumes into your lessons. Have students act out word problems, recreate historical events, or act out a scene from a story while wearing a costume or wig. Conduct your science lessons as a mad scientist, donning a white lab jacket and a pair of thick lens novelty glasses.

### All Style AND Substance!



As a teacher, you probably spend hours each day developing lesson plans for the weeks ahead, as well as correcting your students' tests, quizzes and countless essays. After all of this writing and annotating, your hand is likely to feel sore. To address this universal problem of all teachers, BIC has the perfect solution – the BIC Matic® Fun Mechanical Pencil!

The BIC Matic® Fun mechanical pencil has been

**Classroom Survivor:** Push back the desks and place a three-person inflatable raft in the middle of your classroom. Divide students into groups and instruct them to decide who and what their group will take on a raft lost at sea. Customize this activity for your subject area by requiring each group to incorporate concepts or famous people connected to a current unit.

**Tent Pitching:** Pitching a tent with members of a group requires cooperation, problem solving, and higher-order thinking skills. Borrow three or four tents, take students outside, and try one of the following activities:

**1) Teambuilding:** place students into groups and see which team can put together their tent the fastest. Also see which team can take down and pack up the tent the fastest.

**2) Language Arts:** Instruct students to assemble the tent and then write their own instructions for assembling their tent.

**3) Math:** After assembling the tents, have students identify geometric shapes, determine the square footage, and estimate the inside volume.

**4) Science:** Use the tents to simulate a base camp for research scientists. Have students measure and record weather conditions and gather, identify, and record specimens.

Source for Thomas Edison quote: [http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Thoas\\_A.\\_disn](http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Thoas_A._disn)

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT



refreshed with vibrant colors and fun squishy grips, and it's the perfect tool for every student and/or teacher because it's easy to hold and provides a comfortable and controlled writing experience.

While the colors and grips have been updated (5 new colors in 3 unique shapes), the pencil still offers 3 strong #2, .9mm leads to withstand the pressures of school and homework and make the pencils long-lasting. And writing with the BIC Matic® Fun Mechanical Pencil also allows students and teachers to show their personality in the classroom!


**FEATURE STORY**

illustration and the text that they plan to use.

**Step Four:** Have students complete a final draft of the book. Use the directions posted on one of the following sites to help students bind their books:

**Accordion Book**

<http://www.makingbooks.com/accordion.html>

**Paper Bag Book**

[http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/rt\\_room/sparkers/artist\\_book/make\\_a\\_book.html](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/rt_room/sparkers/artist_book/make_a_book.html)

**Grocery Bag Book**

[http://www.frugalcrafts.com/craft\\_projects/Kid's\\_Crafts/natbook.html](http://www.frugalcrafts.com/craft_projects/Kid's_Crafts/natbook.html)

**Pop-Up Book**

<http://www.makersgallery.com/joanirvine/howto.html>

**Double-Hinged Book**

[http://library.thinkquest.org/J001156/makingbooks/doublehinge/sl\\_dhbook-ingredients.htm](http://library.thinkquest.org/J001156/makingbooks/doublehinge/sl_dhbook-ingredients.htm)

**Lift up book**

[http://library.thinkquest.org/J001156/makingbooks/sc\\_liftup.htm](http://library.thinkquest.org/J001156/makingbooks/sc_liftup.htm)

**Step Five:** Have students read their books aloud to the class.

## Picture Book Wrap Up

Address visual, auditory, and textile learning styles by having your students design and produce a picture book based on concepts from your curriculum. Use the following steps to help students complete an informative and engaging product.


**Step One:** Review children's books that address a concept from your subject area. For math and science, review one of the highly informative books from the "Magic School Bus" series. For history, the "Magic Tree House" series contains some splendid ideas.


**Step Two:** Help students define the concept or process that they will use in their children's book. Instruct them to create a plot and pictures that will help present the concept or process.

**Step Three:** Have students sketch story panels for their book. Each panel should have a rough sketch of the

## Teacher's White Board



Q: Can you share one of your ideas using  Permanent Markers for a fun Halloween craft?

A: We have many craft ideas on our  website, at [www.bicmarkit.com](http://www.bicmarkit.com). These ideas are updated weekly, so you can try them all! For a fun Halloween project, try the "Halloween Pumpkin Patch Candle Centerpiece" craft below.

**Materials**

 Permanent Markers in black, orange, green, yellow, and brown

White paint

1 round glass container with rim at opening (available at craft stores)

1 glass votive holder with candle that fits inside of round glass container

Green and black pipe cleaners

Orange, green and black foam board

Hot glue gun/glue sticks

**Instructions**

Wash glass container and let dry.

Cut several pumpkins out of orange foam to fit around glass container.


Decorate pumpkins using your green and

black  Permanent Markers.


Cut a few leaves for the pumpkins out of the green foam.

Cut two bats out of the black foam and make eyes using your white paint.

Use your white paint and black  Permanent Markers to create ghosts.

Draw a witch on a broomstick along with bats and stars using your  Permanent Markers in brown, yellow, orange, black and green.

Hot glue pumpkins and green leaves around the bottom of the glass container.

Using your green  Permanent Marker, add more leaves and vines around the pumpkins.



Wrap one green pipe cleaner around the base of the container and hot glue in place. Take several green pipe cleaners and make curly vines by wrapping them around a pencil. Tie the vines to the attached pipe cleaner at base of container.

To make flying bats: wrap one black pipe cleaner around the rim of the glass container and hot glue in place. Take two black pipe cleaners and wrap them around pencils to make coils. Attach the pipe cleaners to the rim of the container and hot glue bats to the ends.

Insert votive and light! (Safety Reminder: Tell children only adults should light candles.)