

**WELCOME BACK!** We hope that everyone has had a good break – be it a good rest or an exciting holiday. Now, on to a wonderful new year.

Issue No. 16 Term 1 2008

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# aMuse

A CreativeHorizons™ Newsletter

## NEW COURSE – ACTIVE READING

We have a new on-going course that starts in January 2008. Some students read a lot but their reading is not making an impact on their writing or understanding. Active Reading will help the books come alive and students will get more out of what they read. For more information, please pick up an information brochure, or just give us a call.

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**11.30am to 7.30pm**

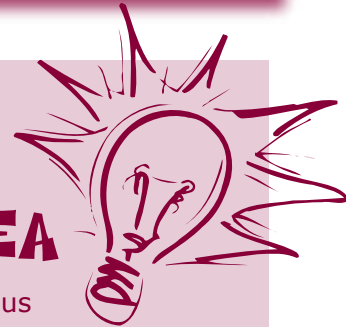
Saturday and Sunday

**9.30am to 5.00pm**

Closed on Monday, Tuesdays,  
Public Holidays



## NEW LEARNING IDEA



Term 1 Theme Board – Famous People. Create a project that tells us about someone who has been immortalised in art or writing. Tell us or show us something about the work of art or writing as well as the person it is about. Keep your project to about an A4 size piece of paper – your project can be a song, a chart or a model or a combination of all 3.

For more information, refer to the notices in the classrooms. All submissions should be given to your teachers by Week 8. A \$20 book voucher will be given to the 3 most creative and informative projects.

## Come Meet Us – Parent-Teacher Meeting Term 1 2008

SINGAPORE

(P1, P2, P6, S1, S4, JC2)

Wednesday – Friday 20 – 22 February &

Monday 25 February 2008

### Creative Horizons Language Centre

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• 18-A Lorong Datuk Sulaiman Satu, Taman Tun Dr Ismail. 60000 Kuala Lumpur Tel: 603 7727 7127 Fax: 603 7727 7126 Email: [crea8tive@streamyx.com](mailto:crea8tive@streamyx.com)

A friend of mine once said that a person's favourite cartoon character says a lot about the person ... Hmm ... I'm not so sure about that – but I know that my favourite cartoon characters are the smurfs. You might not remember them – they were little blue creatures who lived in a little village in the forest and spent their time engaging in various pleasures and escaping from the clutches of an evil wizard named Gargamel. I miss the smurfs!!!



## Who is your favourite cartoon character? And what do you think that might say about you?

The most famous cartoon character is perhaps Mickey Mouse. He was created by a man named Walt Disney. When Mr Disney first sketched Mickey, he was a poor young man whom nobody had heard of. He created Mickey to keep himself entertained in the evenings because there wasn't much television at the time. Drawing Mickey involved in various (mis)adventures and exploits was his way of relaxation. Eventually, he created other cartoon characters like Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Pluto and Goofy to keep Mickey entertained in this world of his imagination.

Soon, the whole world was sharing in Mickey's and his friends' stories and Walt Disney became one of the richest and most famous people in the world!

Hmmm ... Why don't you try your hand at creating cartoon characters and who knows? You might share the fate of the legendary Mr Disney himself.

**F**irst, create a cartoon character. Then create some friends or enemies for him. You might want to create a world for them to live in, too.

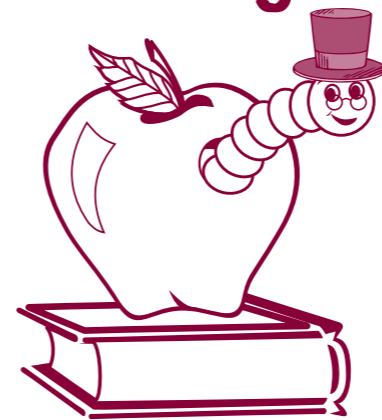
Draw some of these characters for us with brief descriptions of each.

**OR**  
Draw a scene with your characters in their world perhaps engaged in some activity.

**OR**  
Draw a short comic strip involving the cartoon characters!

Submit your creations to us by Week 8 of Term 1 and stand a chance to win book vouchers and have your artistic endeavours published in the next issue of aMuse. We look forward to stepping into your imaginary world!!!

## Reading Comprehension



### Read! Read! Read!

Has anyone told you, "You are like Shylock!" and then it got you wondering, "Huh? Who is Shylock?" Well, if you have read Shakespeare's 'Merchant of Venice', you would have been able to infer that a reference to "a Shylock" refers to a person who is miserly. Read more, because as you read, you form a schema.

### What's a schema?

A schema is a structured sequence of events that a reader already understands.

### How do schemas help?

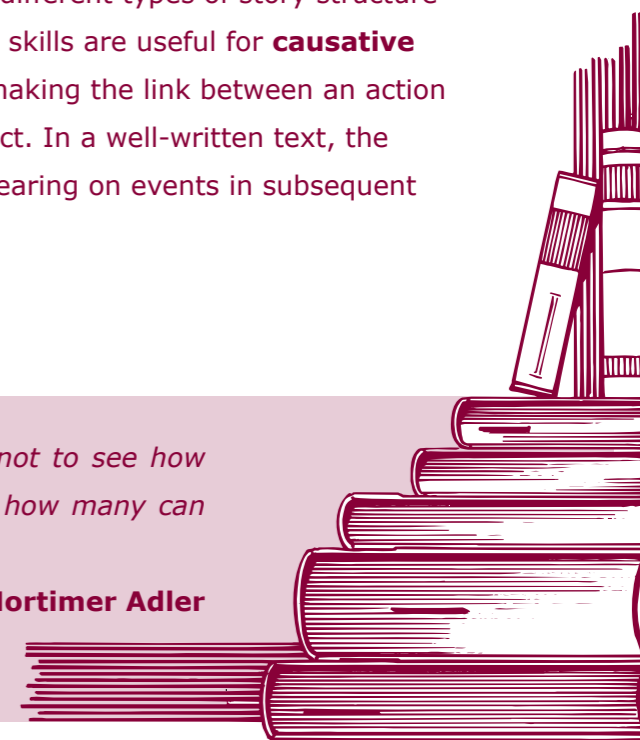
As you read more and more fiction, you develop schemas for different types of events. You will know how these events work and in the future, it will help you interpret and remember these types of events. You will be better placed to understand the facts and therefore find it easier to answer **literal comprehension questions**.

It will help you make inferences about characters like Shylock, Robin Hood and the Magi. This will make answering **inferential comprehension questions** a breeze, as answering these questions involves making connections between ideas and their references.

It helps you to appreciate story content as well as story structure. The more you read, the more you will be able to follow different types of story structure – as well as appreciate literary variations. Such skills are useful for **causative comprehension questions**, which involve making the link between an action and its consequence, between cause and effect. In a well-written text, the events of one paragraph should have some bearing on events in subsequent paragraphs.

*In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but how many can get through to you.*

– Mortimer Adler



In Term 4 of 2007, we asked you to create a piece of writing that showed a different point of view. We asked you to be creative and even put in cartoons/pictures to demonstrate your idea.



Our winner  
Ho Shu Yi, S4 2006

Ho Shu Yi S4 2008 presented us with a very creative piece of work. Well done and congratulations.



# Be something really tiny or something really Huge

## Being Huge

When people think of the word, “Giant”, they often link it to positive words like strength, power and authority. However, as a giant, I beg to differ. There are plenty of setbacks to being a giant. Firstly, people tend to look up at me and I have to look down at them, quite literally. This makes it hard to relate to them. Also, my perception of things is different too! Furthermore, some activities are quite embarrassing for me to do, like dancing.



On the other hand, being a giant has its own advantages. In public transport, I am exposed to the fresher elements. Especially during peak hours. Also, nothing is beyond your reach. You can get hold of everything easily.

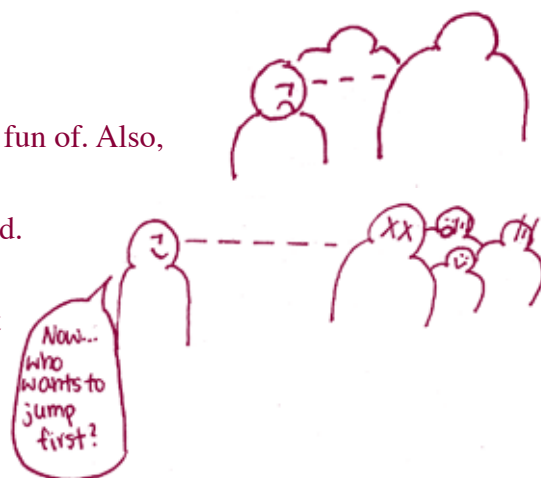
## Being Tiny

Being small it seems to me, is lousy. I am the one everyone makes fun of. Also, I cannot see things as I am usually blocked by those around me.



Furthermore, I tend to be underestimated.

However, in times of need, I can escape easily or hide when I need to. I find that extremely useful sometimes. Also, I tend to be able to escape the gaze of the teacher.



EMAIL US TODAY!

Comments, suggestions, questions about grammar, questions about creativity ...

Or just to share creative works or ideas.

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