

Exercise your imagination

Children know it and adults sometimes need to remember it: using your imagination is not only fun, it is important. It is what allows us to think up new ideas and dream of new ways of doing things. Imagination feeds creativity, and if it is not exercised, creativity is sometimes difficult to achieve.

The PBS organization [defines imagination and creativity](#) as follows: “Imagination allows us to think of things that aren’t real or around us at any given time while creativity allows us to do something meaningful with our imaginations.”

Just like our physical and academic sides need exercise, so, too, does our imagination. Unstructured time to play and build, draw and dream are important for all ages, but especially for children. It can also provide a means for learning – learning about yourself, what you see and what you experience.

This lesson will provide a springboard for using artistic expression bring those imaginative thoughts out into the world.

Let’s start off by reading a book. Maybe make some popcorn or a cup of hot chocolate – it’s a sit back and relax book and takes about half an hour to read!

[The Mischievians](#) by William Joyce

Discussion topics:

- What are Mischievians?
- Which one was your favourite?
- Are they real?
- Can you think of other books that have imaginary characters?



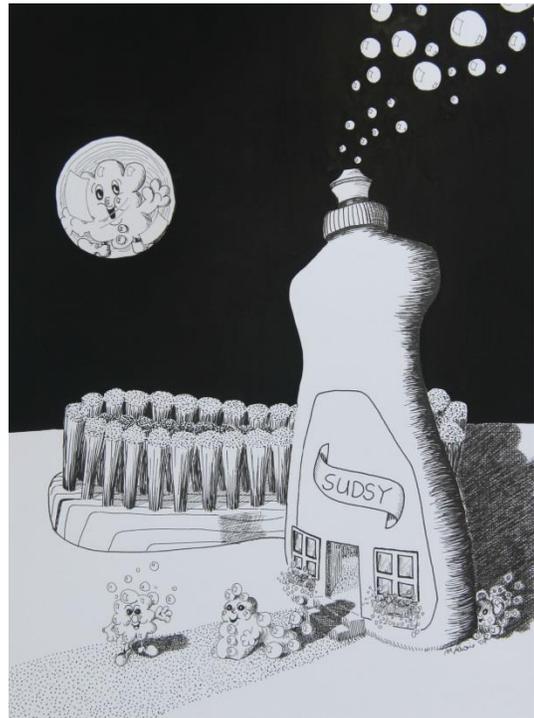
Exercise your imagination

Activities:

The words WHAT IF are a great way to spark the imagination and get it working.

- What if there was another Mischievian, not mentioned in the book? What would it do? Where would it live?
 - Think of your Mischievian. What would it look like? If you need some help creating an imaginary character, check out our [Daily Draw Part 2](#).
 - Draw your Mischievian.
 - Write about its habits. What does it like to do? What does it eat? Where does it live?
 - Draw where it lives. Maybe you can [make a small book](#) and illustrate a story about your Mischievian.

- Have you read books about small people living in our houses, like *The Borrowers* or *The Littles*? What about the story *The Elves and the Shoemaker*?
 - What if there were miniature people living in your house? What would they look like? Would they live in the walls? In the cleaning cupboard? Under your bed?
 - Pick a closet, cupboard or area of your house where your imaginary people are living. Draw that space and colour it with coloured pencils or watercolours. For tips on drawing, check out the [Daily Draw Part 1](#) as well as the [Daily Draw Part 2](#).





Exercise your imagination

- Take your imagination outside. What if there were imaginary critters or talking animals living in your yard, on your balcony, in the park or in the woods?
 - Build a [little landscape](#), then draw it and put in your wee critters or people.
 - Use natural materials to build a little house. Who lives in it? Is it the queen of mice? The grasshopper king?



- Find pictures of the animals in a book or online. Look carefully at them and draw them. How would they look, living in your little house? Would they wear clothes? Be crazy colours? Sit in chairs?
-
- What other ways could you exercise your imagination? [Make a sketchbook](#) or notebook to record your explorations.