

1001

(give-or-take 994)

Amazing. New and
Spectacularly Original Ideas
for Workshop Directors.
Consultants. Activity Advisers.
Leadership Class Instructors
&

anyone-else who gets stuck in the lobby talking to friends they haven't seen since last year and now is really stuck because the session started five minutes ago and that same friend has decided to go to a workshop about something they've already seen, because they've been coming to NAWD since Earl Reum was a boy and so it's hard for them to find new ideas sometimes but they keep on trying because someone paid their registration fee and they would feel guilty if they just took the afternoon off to go shopping."



presented by:
Bob Tryanski
NAWD 2001

Great Idea #1:

Nursery Crimes!



Have you ever noticed how twisted, dark and demented most nursery rhymes are? Murders, explosions, eating disorders, torture- these are the key ingredients in a great story for young children!

Do these awful tales really belong in our preschools? Of course they don't.

THEY BELONG IN OUR WORKSHOP PROGRAMS!!!!

Nursery Crimes is a fun and challenging activity to use at the beginning of a summer program, leadership course, or weekend retreat. The activity challenges participants to use their creative skills and insights about leadership to solve a complex problem as a group.

Here's how it works:

- Large group is broken into smaller teams of 10-20.
- Each team is given a bag of materials and an envelope containing one of the nursery crime scenarios outlined on the following pages.
- The bag is filled with junk- balloons, paper plates, pipe cleaners, a can of play-dough, rubber bands, styrofoam balls, felt, scissors, popsicle sticks, whatever you can think of. Just be sure to give each team the same materials and provide a wide variety of items, colors, shapes and sizes.
- Each team has 30-40 minutes to use the materials in the bag to create an instrument, tool or appliance that will resolve their nursery rhyme character's major dilemma.

- Each team then develops a 3-5 minute infommercial to demonstrate and sell their new invention and an analogy that relates their nursery rhyme character's problem to the challenges confronted by a student leader. The group must explain how their solution is similar to effective leadership.

- The activity works best with 5 or 6 subgroups.

- An auditorium or large group instruction room is the ideal venue for the presentations.

- Have a member of your staff serve as MC, introduce each of the groups and read the nursery rhyme scenario before their skit begins.

- You can process the activity in any number of ways:

- Analyze how the group made decisions.
- Discuss who emerged as the leader of the group.
- Talk about the analogies.
- Ask how the group solved conflicts.
- What made the task challenging?
- How did the participants feel if they were included or left out of the decision-making process?
- What did they learn as a group that might be useful to them throughout the rest of the week, year, or semester?

Timeline:

Overview- 5 minutes

Break into groups, collect materials, move to rooms- 5 minutes

Work time- 35 minutes

Presentations- 25- 30 minutes

Debrief- 15 minutes

Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater

Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater
Had a wife but couldn't keep her
Put her in a pumpkin shell
And there he kept her very well



Of course, Peter never bothered to mark the pumpkin in which he had hidden his beloved wife. He just locked her up and left for his annual fishing trip. When Peter returned a week later and started to look for his wife's pleasant little squash cottage, well, they all looked alike.

People have been asking Peter where his wife is, and he's been nervously making up excuses. The townsfolk are beginning to run out of patience and some believe that there's something fishy about Peter's latest trip out of town. The police have been coming to Peter's house every day, and to make matters worse, the pumpkin patch is scheduled to be plowed under next week.

Your mission should you choose to accept it:

1. FIND PETER'S WIFE

Using the materials in the bag provided, construct a new instrument, tool, or appliance that will help Peter solve his problem. You may only use items in the bag although you do not have to use everything in the bag.

2. MARKET YOUR NEW INVENTION

Prepare a short (3-5 minute) infomercial that will explain your amazing solution to Peter's problem and how your new invention will keep Peter's wife from being turned into mulch. You might want to speculate about other uses your instrument might have and how it could be used in the future. Each person in your group must play a significant speaking part in your presentation.

3. DEVELOP AN ANALOGY

How is Peter's dilemma similar to the dilemmas encountered by a student leader? How is your solution similar to good leadership? Work this in to your presentation.

Rock-A-Bye Baby

Rock-a-bye baby, on the tree top
when the wind blows, the cradle will rock
when the bow breaks, the cradle will fall
and down will come baby, cradle and all!



And down, Down, DOWN came baby at 32 feet per second per second, and when that baby reached bottom, BUH BYE! Broken cradle pieces are scattered everywhere, the tree has been uprooted, that baby is busted! How could anyone be stupid enough to strap a baby up in a treetop during naptime. Can you say LAWSUIT? Oh, yeah, this is an attorney's dream come true. Sue the parents, sue the landscaper, sue the cradle company, and sue the moron weatherman! The class action lawsuit is going to ruin everyone unless you can do something to make sure this will never happen again.

Your mission should you choose to accept it:

1. REDESIGN THE CRADLE SO THAT BABY CAN SURVIVE FUTURE ONSLAUGHTS OF STUPIDITY

Using the materials in the bag provided, construct a new instrument, tool, or appliance that will help protect the innocent baby from it's moronic guardians.. You may only use materials found in the bag, although you do not have to use everything in the bag.

2. MARKET YOUR NEW INVENTION

Prepare a short (3-5 minute) infomercial that will explain your amazing solution to the baby's problem. How will your new invention minimize risk? You might want to speculate about other uses for your invention. Each person in your group must play a significant speaking part in your presentation.

3. DEVELOP AN ANALOGY

How is Baby's problem similar to the challenges encountered by a student leader? How is your solution similar to good leadership? Work this in to your presentation.



Hey Diddle Diddle

Hey Diddle Diddle
The cat and the fiddle
The cow jumped over the moon
The little dog laughed
To see such a sight
And the dish ran away with the spoon

This is the only thing Mr. Diddle has been able to say for months. He is obviously hallucinatory and deranged as he turns to you for psychiatric help. Your task is to figure out what's wrong with Diddle's psyche. What is he trying to say? What do his repressed memories mean? Why is the cow jumping?

1. FIND A WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE UNDERLYING MEANING OF DIDDLE'S POEM.

Using the materials in the bag provided, construct a new instrument, appliance, or tool that will allow you to resolve DIDDLE's dilemma. You may only use materials in the bag but you do not have to use everything in the bag.

2. MARKET YOUR NEW INVENTION

Prepare a short (3-5 minute) infomercial that will explain your amazing solution to DIDDLE's dilemma and how your new invention will allow you to peer into the unconscious thoughts of deranged poets. You might want to speculate on what other uses your instrument might have and how it could be used in the future. You should involve as many members of your color group in this sales pitch as possible.

3. DEVELOP AN ANALOGY

How is DIDDLE'S dilemma similar to the dilemmas encountered by a student leader? How is your solution similar to good leadership? Work this in to your presentation.

Pop Goes The Weasel

All around the mulberry bush
The monkey chased the weasel
The monkey thought it was all good fun
POP! goes the weasel



Boy was this monkey surprised! What started out as a simple game of tag ends with a loud KABOOM, a weasel becomes the victim of spontaneous combustion, and pulverized mulberries are stuck all over everything. What a mess! The mulberry stains look like they'll never come out, the bush has been whacked and the monkey is shell-shocked.

Your mission should you choose to accept it:

1. DEVELOP THE ULTIMATE ANTI-TERRORIST DEVICE FOR MONKEYS.

Obviously this monkey is the target of some sort of international terrorist organization. Using the materials in the bag provided, construct a new instrument or tool that will remove the mulberry stains, restore leaves to the bush, and return the monkey to a state of sanity. Your invention should also protect the monkey from this sort of assault in the future. You may only use materials from the bag although you do not have to use everything in the bag.

2. MARKET YOUR NEW INVENTION

Prepare a short (3-5 minute) infomercial that will explain your solution to the MONKEY's problem. You might want to speculate on what other uses your instrument might have and how it could be used in the future. You should involve as many members of your group in this sales pitch as possible. Be sure to give us the weasel's side of the story as well.

3. DEVELOP AN ANALOGY

How is the MONKEY's dilemma similar to the dilemmas encountered by a student leader? How is your solution similar to good leadership? Work this in to your presentation.

Great Idea #2

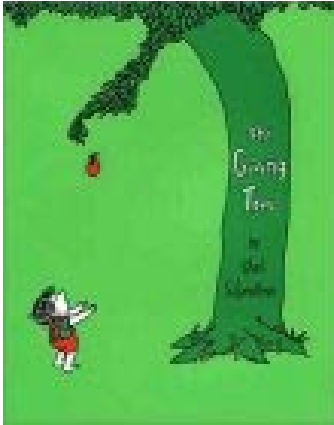
Little Notebooks!



I've been using a smaller workshop notebook for about four years now. My staff and I just love them. You'll spend some extra time converting your handouts the first time you work with them, and you'll have to get your copies cut in half (minimal cost), but it's an excellent opportunity to streamline the information you've been handing out forever. We've noticed a couple of significant advantages over the large binders we used for years:

- delegates like them better
- teaching staff handouts are more focused
- save paper, cut your copy bill in half
- they're easier to carry around
- fewer get left behind
- delegates actually use them as journals!
- same size as Franklin/Covey planners, students can transfer their workshop handouts into their Franklin Planners and Planner sheets into their workshop notebooks.

You can find the 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" size binder at WalMart (ask your local manager to give you a discount). Don't buy from Office Depot or Staples. They'll charge you an arm and a leg. They do cost a little more, but they're worth it!



Great Idea #3: The Giving Tree Gift Exchange!

I got this idea from the great folks in West Virginia and Georgia and I have used it at every workshop since then. It is a great way to wrap up your staff development activities and pull your staff together the night before the workshop begins. IT IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, MY FAVORITE STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Ask each of your staff members to bring a small gift (no more than \$10.00) to share with another member of the group. The gift should in some way capture something unique about the person's interests, talents, experiences, etc. People may bring something they have made or a significant possession they would like to give away (favorite sweat-shirt, athletic trophy, childhood toy,)

Before you begin, have each person place their name in a hat

Gather your staff together and start off the session by reading Shel Silversteins's The Giving Tree. Then present your gift and explain it's significance. After you have presented your gift, draw someone's name out of a hat. That person receives your gift and presents theirs. It is the simplest activity in the world, I guarantee your staff will love it!

Great Idea #4

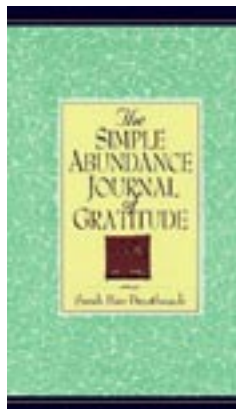
Graticube!

In her thoughtful and profound book Simple Abundance, Sarah Ban Breathnach emphasizes the importance of taking time everyday to reflect upon those things for which we are grateful. If we can cultivate that same sense of awareness within each of the student leaders we meet, we can help them to not only enrich their own lives but also the lives of those around them.

This activity is a great alternative to Boundary Breaking and less likely to degenerate into an overly-emotional session. To begin, make a few points about the importance of cultivating a grateful attitude in each of our lives.

Break your council groups into groups of four or five. Give each person in the group a handout like the one on the next page and ask them to fill it out.

Have the small groups sit in a circle and give each group a die. Each face of the die corresponds to one of the six items on the worksheet . Each person takes turns rolling the die. Whatever number comes up is the number the group discusses. For example, if a person rolled the number 3, each person in the group would describe their most treasured possession and why it is important to them.





GRATICUBE!

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

-Melody Beattie

I Am Grateful For:

1. A significant person in my life:

2. An experience that defined me:

3. My most treasured possession:

4. Something related to my school:

5. A skill or talent I use everyday:

6. Anything at all:

Great Idea #5

The National Enquirer Game



Another great staff development or council group icebreaker. This one is a variation on the “Two Truths and a Lie” activity. Collect back issues of the National Enquirer or World Weekly News or download the covers from the internet. World Weekly News actually works better for this activity. Take each cover and block out one of the headlines. Give one of these covers to each member of your staff or color group and ask them to create an outrageous headline about themselves to complete the front cover. Go around the room and ask each person to read three of the headlines including the one about themselves.. The rest of the group tries to determine which one is the real deal. You can use the covers to decorate your staff office or registration area.



*Enquiring
Minds Want
To Know!*

Great Idea #6

Game Night

This one's an evening activity for the whole workshop! Ask your staff members to bring along their favorite party game. The following games work best: Balderdash, Taboo, Jenga, Scattergories, Yahtzee (although many kids don't know the rules) and Thinkblot. Divide your group into individual teams of five people. Assign two teams to a room with one of the games and one or two staff members(they can play too).

Let them play for about thirty minutes then rotate so that each team competes against three different teams and plays three different games. This takes a little coordination, but it's a lot of fun (and a great alternative to having a dance or a talent show!)





Great Idea #7 The Workshop Review CD-Rom!

This is a new experiment for us. For years we've had one of our workshop committees produce a workshop report. The idea was to have a small memory book of the week's experiences that students receive in the mail in December. Great idea, a logistical nightmare to produce, and increasingly expensive to print and mail. This year we're trying something different

With the advent of digital video, cd-roms, and the world wide web, it's now possible to produce a much better product, in a more cost-effective (i.e. profitable) manner.

Here's a summary of what I explained during the session:

CD contains the following:

Video clips of Junior Olympics, Skits, Banquet Speeches, and a Workshop Review Video in quicktime format.

Handouts in PDF format

Color Group Photos, Staff Photos, Candid Photos

Delegate Directory with email addresses

The Bottom Line:

- CD-R's cost about \$.50 a piece to produce and \$1 to mail
- You can sell them for \$10-\$15.

What You Need:

- A digital video camera (dv or minidv format)
- Imovie for Macintosh or Adobe Premier for Windows
- A CD Burner
- A Web Page Publishing Program
 - Dreamweaver
 - Microsoft Front Page
 - Adobe GoLive
- Time,
- Patience
- Someone Who Knows What They're Doing!

Advantages over video:

- Less expensive
- Easy to ship
- Quicker to duplicate
- Excellent fundraiser can allow you to purchase the equipment you need
- No more xeroxing
- Kids love them!





www.bobtryanski.com

btryanski@mac.com

800-207-9313