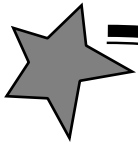


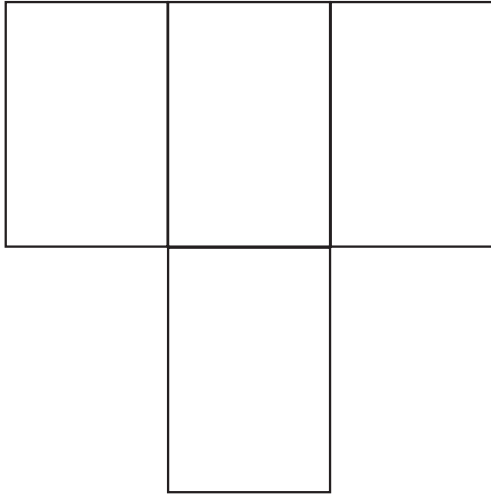
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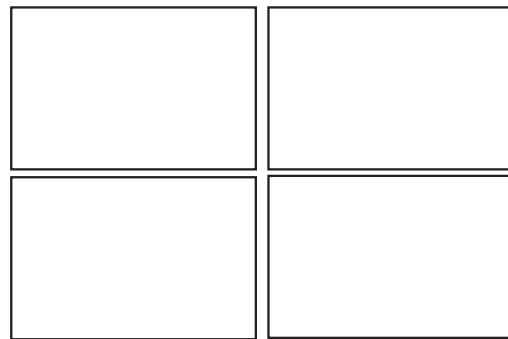


# Creative Exercises

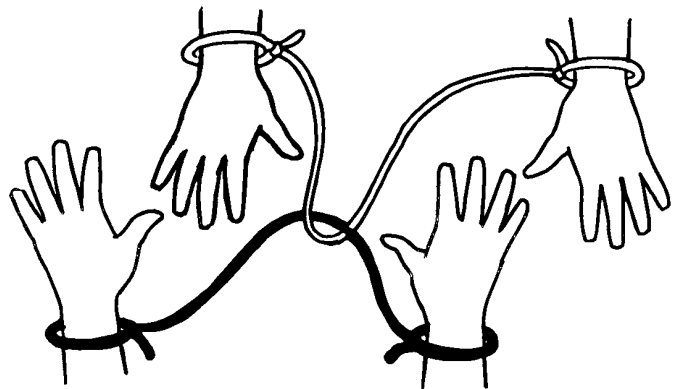
Creative writing begins with creative thinking. See if you can find the creative solutions to the following puzzles:



Cut out the four pieces of paper below and arrange them to look like the drawing at left. Now, try to make a square by moving only one of the pieces. It is possible, but only if your thinking is not habitual, or the same old way of thinking.

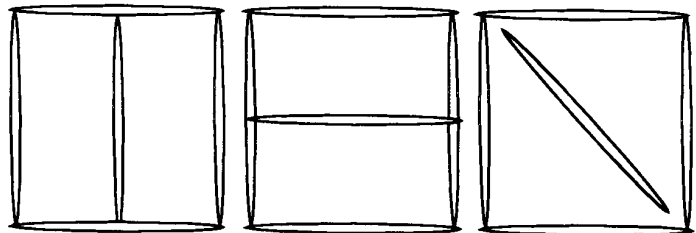


Now try this one. You will need two pieces of yarn (the thick, stretchy kind is the most gentle), each about a yard (meter) long. Tie the ends around your wrists and the ends of the other string around your partner's wrists, hooking them together as shown. Without breaking or untying the strings, see if you can get free from your partner. Remember to think creatively and you may do it!



Your teacher will give you fifteen toothpicks. Arrange the toothpicks so that they look like this:

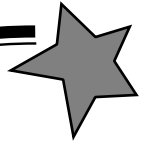
Can you take away six toothpicks and have ten left?



Here is another one you will want to try. In the following line of letters, cross out six letters so that the letters that are left will spell a familiar English word:

**BSAINXLEATNTEARS**

# You've Got to Have Style



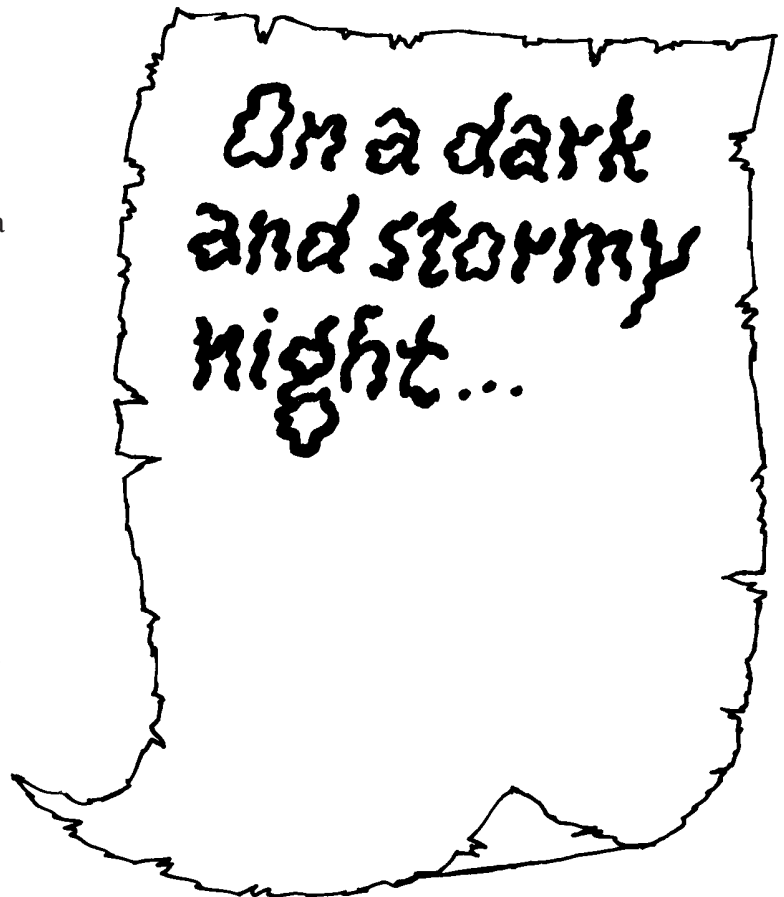
Style is how a writer tells a story. It is the kind of words an author chooses and the way the words are put together in sentences. Style is the way an author uses language. It is what makes one writer different from another writer and one story different from another story.

Look at the following examples of writing style. Use a piece of unlined paper for each one and do the following.

1. Create an illustration for each writing sample. For example if the sample is of an exotic, faraway place in ancient times, make the page look old and the writing fancy. For a mysterious writing style, make the page look mysterious or scary for a spooky, suspenseful style.
2. After you have created the illustration, write the first line of the story, which is given to you below, leaving enough room for your writing.
3. After the first sentence, add the next sentence, keeping the same style of writing.

## First Lines

1. Long ago, in a distant and enchanted land, a beautiful maiden sat upon the banks of a gentle stream.
2. "Hey you! Watcha doin'?" Danny shouted at the new boy, "Whyn't ya watch where yer goin'?"
3. The room was dark and shadowy, and I could barely make out the forms of a person here and there, sitting, watching me as I scanned the room for what might be a hidden staircase.
4. She tiptoed through the black tunnel trying to keep the sounds of her breathing and beating heart from bursting through the silence when she suddenly sensed a presence behind her.
5. Bengie sat up and looked around. There was his teddy bear and his tiger and his blocks, but where was his bedtime book and his milk?



**Extension**—Choose your favorite style and, using additional paper, write a story of several pages that begins with the first two sentences of the assignment.