

Editorial

Carol Read

During all the years of being joint editor, I don't think I've ever edited an issue of **CATS** with quite so many repetitions of the same word. No prizes for guessing what this is! It leaps out from every page, not just the word itself but all the lively and varied interpretations of what it means, why it is important and how to go about it in the everyday classroom reality of young learners and their teachers, either in theory or in practice, or both.

The articles speak for themselves:

- **Robert Fisher** stresses the importance of creative thinking skills for successful learning and suggests classroom activities to encourage creativity with words, objects and pictures.
- **Lynne Cameron** explores what creativity means and gives examples of creativity in children learning English.
- **Jane Revell** explores the importance of engaging minds, bodies and hearts for effective and successful learning.
- **Janet Enever** interviews best-selling children's author and illustrator, Nick Sharratt, about books, children and creativity.
- **Andrew Wright** shares a personal view of things that help him to be creative and provides practical ideas for classroom activities.
- **Judy Garton-Sprenger** and **Philip Prowse** offer suggestions for creative activities with teenagers at elementary and pre-intermediate levels.
- **Simon Smith** suggests three creative familiarisation activities to use on in-service teacher education courses for young learner teachers.
- **Gail Ellis** and **Carol Read** explore how a primary teacher education task using metaphor can lead to creative insights on planning lessons.

In the rest of **CATS**, we continue our two new features: *Looking at a Learner* in which **Nayr Ibrahim** describes the creative blossoming of a 9-year-old young learner at the British Council in Paris, and *Focus on a World-wide YL SIG* in which **Alison Miyake** introduces us to the Teaching Children SIG in Japan. Book reviews by **Niki Joseph** and **Jason Renshaw** keep us up to date with two recent publications on Multiple Intelligences and developing writing skills. **Lynne Cameron** summarises a recent YL SIG e-discussion on the topic of creativity which she facilitated and, last but not least, **Sandie Mourão** provides us with a brief history of volunteers who have helped to keep the YL SIG going over the years and made it into what it is today.

The idea for the cover of this issue was inspired by a creative thinking activity on coffee cups in Robert Fisher's book *Teaching Children to Think* (see page 7 for reference). Many thanks for the illustrations to **Eleanor Watts** who provided the artistic talent to put the idea into practice.

After seven years as joint editor of **CATS**, this is my last issue. I'd like to thank all the people I've worked with during this time – particularly my co-editors, **Eleanor Watts** in the early days and, more recently, **Kay Bentley**, for being such great colleagues, the whole YL SIG committee, for always being so enthusiastic and supportive, and all the **contributors** over the years who've given so generously of their time in writing articles and sharing their ideas. A very special thanks also to **Miguel Ariño**, who has helped me out with this issue on the technical side of things for the second time, and without whom the pdf version, now downloadable from the members section of the YL SIG website, might never have existed.

I very much hope that you enjoy this issue of **CATS** and, if you feel creatively inspired, please do get in touch and let us know your views!



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